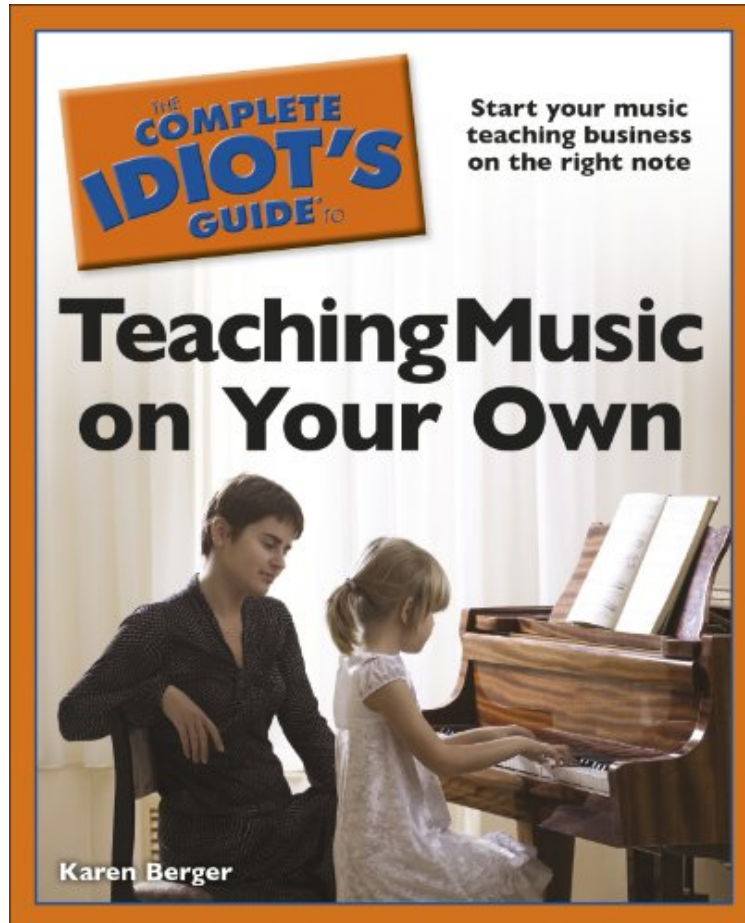


[Download] The Complete Idiot's Guide to Teaching Music on Your Own

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Teaching Music on Your Own

Karen Berger

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Karen Berger : The Complete Idiot's Guide to Teaching Music on Your Own before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Idiot's Guide to Teaching Music on Your Own:

16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. The best overall book on the subject yet By Aaron Wolf I've read several books on this subject, and they range from mediocre to good. This one is the best. It covers business side of things, the teaching side, and is not overly biased toward any particular cultural or stylistic assumptions. The writing style is wonderful and accessible. It will be basically things any experienced teacher knows, though they may be worth revisiting. There are only a few minor issues. Ms. Berger has much more broad perspective than many authors, but she still insists without true justification that all piano students need real acoustic pianos. That is simply wrong. Learning on an acoustic will be a different, and in SOME ways richer, experience, but calling it a necessity is unfounded. Furthermore, she suggests that a cheap keyboard lacking touch sensitivity is "worthless." In truth, while dynamics from touch sensitivity are wonderful, music has been made for hundreds of years on non-touch-sensitive instruments including organs and harpsichords as well as cheap keyboards. Instead of using extreme and simplistic dismissing terms, she should have simply explained what the compromises are. She could even have gone so far as to clarify that

she does not allow her students to use such cheap keyboards. More problematically, Berger is a little too accepting of the idea that lessons could cover a majority of musical content that students dislike. I disagree entirely: students should be able to play mostly music they are thrilled to play. As in other areas of life, some students need to be taught to be open-minded and give things a try, but the goal is certainly to have students finding intrinsic reward and play mostly music they love. These issues are minor, however. I am sure that Ms. Berger would have better addressed these points if they had been brought up in editing. The bulk of the book shows a very thoughtful and open-minded attitude. These minor complaints are literally the only faults I found in an otherwise comprehensive and superb book. Topics covered include: Music skills, qualifications, pedagogy, business stuff, home teaching, studio setup, traveling teachers, various venues, group lessons of all sorts, rates and pay schedule, taxes, studio policy, scheduling, personal vs work time, marketing, meeting students initially, parental observation issues, group lessons, transfer students, teaching preschoolers, elementary age students, practicing by task, time, or goal, parental involvement, other student activities, conflicts, middle school and high schools, special needs students, adults: learning, scheduling, practice ideas: logs, awards, motivating repertoire, probation (practice or end lessons), test observe practice (students demonstrate their practice), dealing with behavior problems, parents' too low or high expectations, boundaries and gender issues, discontinuing lessons, method books related...how pop music is more rhythmically complex than classical, advanced issues such as theory and differences in instruments (how piano tends to not train for nuance and tuning and solo instruments not aware of harmony etc), jazz pop in addition to classical, using technology: recording, software, internet, recitals, competitions / exam / judge...teacher training / certifications, online teacher resources, forums, professional organizations

A pitch-perfect resource that will be a number-one hit with music instructors. 'The Complete Idiot's Guide to Teaching Music on Your Own' offers prospective teachers - and existing ones - all of the tools they need to start and run a profitable, respected studio. The comprehensive guide covers every aspect of running a studio, including: -Setting up a studio - Lessons in the home versus travelling to students - Advertising and marketing - Fee schedules and basic pricing principles - Student relations - Using computer games and programs in the studio