

TOY COLLECTION
Elementary Piano Solos
by Teresa Richert
Red Leaf Pianoworks

“Richert wrote this timeless collection of pieces "about toys that have appeal today and for years to come!" This theme threads these pieces together while giving each piece a chance to stand alone. The Notes for Teachers at the back of the collection are very helpful. Each piece has a clear technique that is outlined for the student to focus on and develop. Older students will gravitate to Super Hero Action Figure and Video Game Adventure. Imagining their favorite avatar or super hero come to life through the music. Teachers can spark the enthusiasm of their students by asking them: "What are they doing now? Are they flying or jumping? Do they save the day in the end?" Richert does this through fresh staccatos in the RH and a grand LH melody with rolled chords in Super Hero and lots of chromaticism and melody sharing between the hands in Video Game. For the younger student, there are pieces about Teddy Bears (triple meter with dotted rhythms), Doll Houses (crossovers) and Racing Cars (large dynamic range). Two pieces from this collection, Little Red Wagon and Bouncing Ball are included in the 2015 RCM Celebration Series Syllabus (both of which are a hit with my students!) Students of all ages and stages will enjoy this world of toys come to life. An imaginative and enjoyable piano solo collection.”

Sarah Lawton, Ontario
THE CANADIAN MUSIC TEACHER
Fall 2018
- - -

LAND OF DREAMS Piano Duets
Book 1 Early Elementary
by Teresa Richert
Red Leaf Pianoworks

"Teresa Richert is well known for her imaginative piano solos from elementary through advanced levels. Now she has written Piano Duets Land of Dreams in two books - Book 1 for Early Elementary (Beginner to Prep) and Book 2 for Elementary (Grades 1 - 3). Book 1 contains six creative pieces for early elementary students who are perhaps playing duets for the first time. All of the pieces are in fixed hand positions. *Lullaby for a Teddy Bear* requires the Primo to move the hand position up by one note. *Polka Dot Pajamas* has a LH over the RH for two notes and *Lullaby for a Teddy Bear* requires playing in the written register as well as an octave and two octaves above. Sharps and flats occur only in *Stormy Night*. Meters are simple, note values are quarter, half and whole allowing for duet playing at the earliest possible opportunity. In spite of the simplicity of these pieces, a variety of moods are evoked from sleepy, expressive and tender to lively, stormy and merry. Melodic interest is divided between both parts and musicality is encouraged through an array of dynamics, articulations, registers and harmonies. A helpful Notes for Teachers page focuses on the salient features of each piece. This looks to be a well-crafted, innovative resource that I will turn to again and again. I encourage you to check it out!"

Joyce Janzen - British Columbia
THE CANADIAN MUSIC TEACHER
VOLUME 65 - NUMBER 2 - JANUARY 2015