

AWESOME IN 8 MINUTES

LEARNING TO PLAY FROM LEAD SHEETS



Awesome in 8 Minutes: Learning To Play From Lead Sheets

For Piano

by Andrea and Trevor Dow



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Awesome in 8 Minutes

Learning to Play from Lead Sheets

Instant gratification needed? *Voila!* With *Awesome in 8 Minutes* you have the music you need at your fingertips for: students who are beginning to read lead sheets, adult students who want instant gratification, teens who are used to playing by ear, students with short attention spans, students who need mini-assignments, students who want to learn how to improvise, students who want to chord... you name it!

Awesome in 8 Minutes provides 10 mini-lead sheets in varying keys, but avoids key signatures (the accidentals are instead included within the music) enabling teachers to approach lead sheet learning in an accessible way for a multitude of ages and abilities. The pieces use only quarter, half and eighth notes, and are simple...designed to be taught in just 8 minutes or less!

Each piece is also accompanied by suggestions on how to add more challenging aspects.

Learning to play from lead sheets opens the door to a wonderful world of improvisation and creativity. Have fun teaching your students to use these pieces as a springboard into the exciting world of improv and chording.

Enjoy!
Andrea and Trevor



Teachers...
Before you begin,
Check this out!

Never taught from a lead sheet before? No problem! This book is designed for students who have never played from lead sheets... and for teachers who have never taught from lead sheets! The rhythms are simple, the chords are simple, and the pieces are short. **Think of them as “lead sheet training exercises”**... that still sound totally awesome!

Follow the 8 steps on the next page when starting to teach from this book. After the first few times your students will begin learning the process quickly (like in 8 minutes!) and will be ready for the extensions we’ve provided for more of a challenge. Once your students reach the end of the book, they can return to the beginning and use their new-found knowledge to re-vamp each of the pieces again and again.

This book was designed to appeal to students ages 7-12. If you would like a version where the layout is more suited to teens or adults, check out the additional copy you received with this month’s book.



Follow me and
discover how to learn
awesome music
fast!

#1

Discuss the meaning of the chord symbols with your teacher. Practice finding just the root of each chord. Look for patterns within the chord progression.

#2

Learn the right hand melody line. Look for patterns and any variations to those patterns. Play it until you are comfortable.

#3

Where is the Bass Clef? These chord symbols take the place of the Bass Clef line! Your left hand will be improvising an accompaniment to your right hand melody line.

#4

What if there is no chord symbol above a measure? Look to the previous measure and use that same chord again.

When adding pedal, clear it at the start of each measure, or with each change of the left hand.

#6

What should your left hand play? Start by using solid held **5ths** based on the root of each chord. The chord symbol is found directly above the right hand note with which it should be played.

#5

#7

Give it a shot! Once you can play through comfortably, make some decisions about dynamics and tempo and even the octave in which to play. The pieces in this book can vary widely based on what you choose.

#8

Want more awesome sounds?! Use our extension suggestions below each piece to learn some beginning improvisation skills and to expand upon the basics of lead sheet playing.

STELLAR

Andrea Dow

Musical score for 'Stellar' in 4/4 time, showing four staves of music with chord labels D, G, and A.

Staff 1: Chord D (5 1), G, A

Staff 2: Chord D, G, A

Staff 3: Chord D, G

Staff 4: Chord D

Let's Make It
Awesome!

Change up the
Left Hand

Try playing 5ths in eighth notes in the left hand so it sounds like this...



Musical score showing the left hand playing eighth notes in 5ths, corresponding to the chords D, G, and A.

...etc