From Keith Snell & Diane Hidy—

PIANO TOWN

The Perfect Place to Learn to Play the Piano

The Groundbreaking New Piano Method
For Students Age Six and Up

Neil A. Kjos Music Company • Distributor
**Piano Town**, the highly anticipated new elementary piano method by Keith Snell and Diane Hidy, is the perfect place to learn to play the piano! A Multi-Key method with a Middle C start and a special focus on intervals, **Piano Town** combines the best of pedagogy with innovative new ideas. Students will love the contemporary feel as they discover the musical wonder of **Piano Town**. Teachers will love the success of its interactive discovery learning approach!

**A Middle C Start Leads Effortlessly into Strong Interval Reading in Every Key**

**Piano Town** introduces your students to the piano with pre-staff notation at the Primer Level. Following that, reading on the staff begins in Middle C position, the easiest starting point for learning to read and the best key for early musical melodies. New intervals are introduced individually, giving students a chance to become familiar with the correct fingering and visual appearance on the staff. The result? Strong note reading skills and a satisfying musical experience.

**Logical Sequence of Keys**

The concept of key signatures can be difficult for students to grasp. Following the introduction of C Major, **Piano Town** introduces F Major so that the key signature is immediately accessible to playing the music correctly in the five finger position. It is easier for students to understand the relevance of key signatures when they use the accidental immediately. Key signatures in **Piano Town** are thus introduced in middle C position so students actually use accidentals and understand their importance.

The introduction of each new key is supported technically, theoretically, and musically. The keys are presented in an order that is easy for students to learn and understand. **Piano Town** begins with the most frequently used keys in piano music and works toward the more remote and less often used key signatures.

**Keys Presented in Cumulative Order of Sharps and Flats**

- **Level One:** C, F, and G
- **Level Two:** D, A, and E
- **Level Three:** Am, Dm, Em, B♭, Gm
- **Level Four:** E♭, A♭, D♭, G♭, B
LEADING-EDGE PEDAGOGY

Four Books/Five Levels—
Lessons
Theory
Technic
Performance
for
Primer
Level One
Level Two
Level Three
Level Four

Consistent Grading and Smooth Pacing With Page-by-Page Correlation

The controlled, steady pacing of the Piano Town curriculum introduces one element at a time. Each concept is presented in a consistent, reliable format. This clear presentation helps students recognize and focus on new skills and information.

Natural, Effortless Technic

Piano Town looks out for your student’s physical as well as psychological needs. Stronger and weaker fingers are considered in the construction of each piece. Piano Town’s technic studies start with the stronger, more coordinated “center” of the hand—fingers 2 and 3—then gradually moves out to 1, 4, and 5, taking care to avoid awkward use of 4 and 5.

The music focuses on melodies that promote a natural, effortless legato, avoiding over-use of repeated notes—especially with weaker fingers. This gradual, evenly paced, and systematic development of technic incorporating physical training in a natural sequence, builds your student’s confidence, capability, satisfaction, and success.
Accompaniments  
Nurture Musical, Rhythmic Playing

Exciting duet parts add texture and flare to the simplest of pieces; they also help teachers prompt students toward rhythmically accurate and musically shaped performances. Duets are printed at the top of the page in score form. This way the teacher can easily track the student part while playing and the students are never distracted by the printed accompaniment.

Students Learn Transposing

Transposition skills are essential to improved reading, technical fluency, and theoretical knowledge. In Piano Town students are taught to think by intervals, helping them become more secure with lines and spaces and much more facile with transposition.

Piano Town introduces transposing in Level One. Thereafter students are provided with many opportunities to transpose comfortable pieces into familiar keys. Transposing thus becomes an integral part of the learning process benefiting their sight-reading, technic, and theory.
**UNIQUE NEW TEACHING AIDS**

**Questions Help Students and Teachers**

**Piano Town** helps students develop the habit of scanning through a piece to “see what’s there,” one of the most valuable tools for any pianist.

Before each piece in the Lessons books, students are asked important questions whose answers they must find by reading through the piece. Questions are designed to prep each new piece by drawing attention to new concepts as well as reviewing those previously learned.

Questions also provide teachers with the tools for underscoring new concepts, reviewing older concepts, and preparing successful sight-reading, practice, and performance.

**Call-outs Introduce All New Concepts**

A pointer line pairs each new term with its definition, and each new symbol with its explanation. Definitions and explanations of new concepts appear when and where they are needed: in the music.

**Tabs For Teachers**

Tabs at the top of each page are a quick and easy way to check the new concepts being introduced.
EXCEPTIONAL MUSICALITY THROUGHOUT

Students Play Classics from the Beginning

**Piano Town** introduces students to classic melodies in the *Primer Level*. Simplified arrangements of Bach, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky join with favorite folk tunes and original music. Classical literature in its original form is introduced in *Level One* and used almost exclusively in *Levels Three* and *Four*. At the same time students learn about the lives of the composers through brief biographies.

Prepare Students for Intermediate Repertoire

After completing **Piano Town**, students will be ideally prepared to begin Level Three of **Keith Snell’s Piano Repertoire Series**. Here you’ll find a wealth of choices, all with the same high quality selection and editing.

Right from the start **Piano Town** introduces your students to real music that their families will love to hear. Music that is both attractive to students and pedagogically sound creates a complete package. The skillful presentation of the pieces makes teaching them successful each and every time.
ART & LYRICS
STIR THE IMAGINATION

A Creative Style That Matures Along with the Student

Art and lyrics encourage imagination and help students explore the expressive nature of music. The art, music, and lyrics of **Piano Town** change and mature as levels advance and the music becomes more sophisticated.

Concepts Tie Together with Art and Lyrics

**Piano Town** quickly becomes a real place…
a supportive and diverse community of family and friends, a place where a new, exciting adventure is just around the corner.

For the first time ever **Lessons**, **Performance**, and **Technic** books are correlated not only by concept but also by themes or storylines. It’s an easy and entertaining way to remember all parts of a concept…especially when the story is about dinosaurs, adventures, friends, and family.
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Keith Snell began teaching when he was fifteen years old, under the guidance of his piano teacher/mother. Since that time he has maintained an independent piano studio with students ranging from advanced high school students to typical young beginners. Keith received his B.M. and M.M. in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California. He is co-author of Piano Town, and the highly acclaimed Fundamentals of Piano Theory series. He is also well known to teachers as the editor of the Neil A. Kjos Master Composer and Piano Library Repertoire series, and as producer of the recordings that accompany both. Keith has shared his insights about piano teaching in workshops and master classes throughout North America and abroad.

Diane Hidy is well known as a performing and recording artist. She is a former winner of the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist Competition, among numerous other competitions. In 1987 she was the first woman to become a Beethoven Fellow of the American Pianists Association, and she made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1991. As a recording artist Diane is best known to piano teachers as the performer on the Neil A. Kjos Master Composer and Piano Repertoire series CDs, all of which correlate with the print volumes edited by Keith Snell. Her recording, Lullaby, The Journey Begins won a Parents Choice Award in 2002. Diane attended the Juilliard School and holds degrees from the University of Southern California and Peabody Conservatory. Diane maintains a piano studio and enjoys teaching her students who range from 5 to 75 years of age.

PIANO TOWN

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