Hepp, Christopher

The American Music Teacher; Apr/May 2006; 55, 5; ProQuest Research Library pg. 93

biographical entries of hundreds of gospel singers and groups, a glossary of gospel terms, trivia tidbits, lists of the all-time best-selling gospel recordings, gospel songs that crossed over to R&B charts, and Grammy, Dove and Stellar gospel award winners. With a writing style that is honest, insightful and straightforward, author Bil Carpenter is one of America's preeminent music journalists. Recommended recordings are given at the end of many entries, for those interested in hearing the music of these musicians.

The CD accompaniment with the same title, gives a wonderful sampling of the gospel songs and groups included in the book. A listener unfamiliar with gospel music should listen to the CD before reading the stories. With the exception of the beginning of the first cut on the CD, the sound quality on the CD is very good. It is puzzling that Horace Boyer, gospel specialist who wrote How Sweet the Sound: The Golden Age of Gospel (1995), is not included in this collection, except in the "Selected Bibliography." Since the book has no footnotes, it is impossible to know

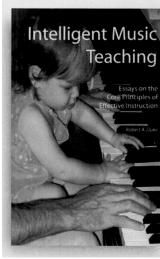
exactly what contribution Boyer's work made to this encyclopedia.

After reading a sampling of stories, such as Mahalia Jackson, Mary Lou Williams, Aretha Franklin, Maya Angelou, Ray Charles and Marian Anderson, I found them fascinating and was motivated to listen to more of this special genre of American music. This book is an excellent addition to the literature that preserves America's great gospel music heritage. Reviewed by Mryna Capp, NCTM, Seattle, Washington.

Intelligent Music Teaching: Essays on the Core Principles of Effective Instruction, by Robert Duke. Learning and Behavior Resources, (1401 The High Rd., Austin, Texas 78746), 2005. 176 pp.

Reading Robert Duke's newly published collection of essays is like witnessing a lecture by this influential music educator: energetic, thoughtprovoking, incisive and down-to-earth. Not every teacher will agree with Duke's premise that successful music teaching can be measured just as a

"trial lawyer's work is evaluated based on his record of winning cases." But many teachers will benefit immediately from his applications to the studio and classroom of the "expansive, rich body of data



that illuminates the processes of knowledge acquisition and skill development.

Duke's educational beliefs-and prejudices—are well-supported throughout the collection. He believes a music lesson can, and should, be as carefully planned as a military maneuver with goals clearly identified, strategy precisely outlined and tactics minutely executed. He then proceeds to describe those goals, strategies and tactics in as distinct and disciplined a

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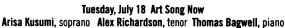


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AMERICAN MUSIC TEACHER

manner as he would expect of any teacher under his guidance. As the supervisor of a piano class program for many years, I found myself nodding my head in agreement throughout the book. His essays on "Sequencing Instruction" and "Transfer" alone make this book essential reading for my graduate assistants and pedagogy classes. But to enjoy the essays like individual dishes on a buffet obscures what I believe is the book's fundamental "ritornello": remember that what you're teaching is not necessarily what the student is learning.

Duke hits so many "home runs" that he's bound to strikeout occasionally. The most conspicuous example involves a comparison of teaching piano and teaching statistics in which he illustrates how a discussion of the "big picture" helps students understand a statistics formula, but a similar discussion of the emotions of the music does not aid the execution of a "delicate quality" on the piano. Another odd assertion is that moving a violin bow, for example, in space, has no value for teaching a student to improve control of that same bow

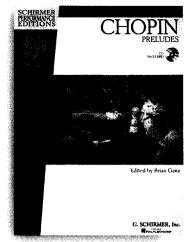
when applied to the string—Abby Whiteside is turning over in her grave! If such analogous experiences have no power, then why does every student's performance of a baroque minuet spontaneously improve after I've taught them the dance steps?

At times Duke's reach exceeds his grasp, but there is so much complex and vital information that he clearly does grasp, that musician-teachers of every type will find this book a "mustread." Reviewed by Christopher Hepp, Lawerence, Kansas.

## PIANO

Chopin Preludes (w/CD), edited by Brian Ganz. Hal Leonard Corp., (7777 W. Bluemound Rd., P.O. Box 13819, Milwaukee, WI 53213), 2005. 96 pp. \$12.95.

This new edition of *Chopin Preludes* is worth exploring, even by those of us with multiple editions already in our personal libraries. Editor Brian Ganz writes that he intended "to offer the pianist tools for removing the cello-



phane from these much loved and familiar pieces and discovering their originality anew." Extensive notes, an easy-to-read layout and the inclusion of Ganz's CD recording of the preludes, make this edition a bargain.

The "future" of performance editions is here: most of the performance notes exist only online, although a preview of the editor's notes is included in the book. Based on the preview, Ganz's notes are instructive and stimulating. For each prelude, he includes a wealth of comments, pedaling possibilities, suggested phrase structure and questions designed to guide students



