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Something New Every Lesson

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JOHN THOMPSON

TALENTED American pianist-composer, born in Pennsylvania. At an early age he appeared as a concert pianist in all of the principal cities of America and Europe, where his brilliant playing received the highest praise of the public and press. After concluding his triumphant concert tours, he accepted a responsible post as head of the piano departments in leading Conservatories. During these experiences he developed certain definite and original ideas about teaching, and has in a short time become famous for his sincere efforts to interest young pupils in pianism. All his books teach in the simplest language possible, interpretation and expression: one ideal, as it were: "to use in miniature the same attacks as those used by the concert artist."

COMPOSITIONS FOR PIANO SOLO

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JOHN THOMPSON'S STUDENTS SERIES

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Published by THE WILLIS MUSIC CO. Florence, Kentucky 41022-0548
PREFACE

This book has been carefully planned to continue the pianistic and musical development of the pupil from the precise point attained at the end of the SECOND GRADE BOOK. While technical expansion in all directions has been considered and provided for, the main objective of the book is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the basic laws of Interpretation.

TEACHING INTERPRETATION

It need scarcely be pointed out that there is a vast difference between IMITATION and INTERPRETATION. Like education itself, INTERPRETATION must come from within. We cannot think for pupils, nor can we communicate to them the color of our own emotional response to music. We can, however, show them where to look in order to determine what any given composer had in mind, and thus lead them to form their own emotional responses, and to intelligently communicate them to the keyboard. The elements of INTERPRETATION are therefore presented simply and clearly quite early in the book. Additional helpful notes accompany each example and the pupil will naturally elaborate on these aids just so far as he has been endowed by nature with talent.

VARIETY OF MATERIAL

A single glance at the CONTENTS will show that this book covers a wide field in the choice of material. Experience has proven that differences in taste among pupils are more pronounced at the Third Grade stage of development than in the earlier grades. The teacher may therefore prefer to exercise a certain selectivity in the matter of lesson assignments. There is probably more material in this book than will be needed by an average student. Each example however,—let it be “La Cucaracha” or the Beethoven “Septet”—has been thoughtfully and carefully arranged to develop some definite point pianistically and musically speaking.

TWENTY-FOUR PRELudes IN ALL KEYS

To assure familiarity with all keys and facility in playing in any or all of them, 24 short PRELudes are provided on pages 85 to 91 of this book. These PRELudes are to be assigned throughout the progress of the book as Preparatory Exercises, in lieu of the usual Finger Drills.

THE THIRD GRADE VELOCITY BOOK

Since technical problems become more and more an individual matter as pupils progress, it has been thought best to handle this phase of the work separately. The author has therefore compiled, edited and annotated a supplementary book of Velocity for Third Grade students, entitled JOHN THOMPSON’S THIRD GRADE VELOCITY STUDIES. It consists of carefully selected and the most effective examples from such master étude writers as Berézoi, Bertini, Burgmüller, Czerny, Duvernoy, Heller, Kullak, Köhlcr, LeCouppey, Lüschhorn, etc. This little volume makes possible an attractive selection of examples for the development of all phases of pianism and has the advantage of presenting varied styles of technical procedure.

The use of the two books in combination assures a well-rounded musical and technical development for any piano student, young or old. That they may bring distinct pleasure and diversion as well as marked progress to all who use them is the sincere wish of the author.

[Signature]

P.S. Certificate of Merit (Diploma) will be found on Page 91.

W. M. Co. 5835
CROSS-HAND PLAYING

Cross-hand playing is a device used frequently in piano playing. It not only simplifies the performance of certain passages, but changes the tonal effect as well. Concert artists sometimes deliberately divide a passage between the hands just to obtain a certain color and style.

While the following example affords practice in cross-hand work, it should be considered also as a study in tone. Try to develop the best possible singing quality while playing this beautiful Negro Spiritual, thus preparing the way for the many examples in LYRIC FORM to be found in this book. Remember that tonal quality is a very definite part of Interpretation.

Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen

Andante con moto

Plantation Spiritual
Arr. by J.T.

L. H.

pp
mf expressivo

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Teacher's Note: The following chapter on Interpretation should be explained to the pupil and assigned for careful study at home while this piece is being learned.

W. M. Co. 5825
INTERPRETATION

There are two sides to music—the Material and the Spiritual. Playing the notes correctly as indicated on the printed page is but the material side. Translating the emotions and thoughts generated by playing these notes in a certain manner, constitutes the spiritual side of music and is known as Interpretation.

The most subtle and complex phase of music study is that of Interpretation. Naturally the young pupil in the Third Grade is not expected to be profound in his readings. This comes only with mature conception and assumes a considerable background and long training in the study and analysis of music.

LAWS OF INTERPRETATION

There are, however, certain fundamental laws of Interpretation which should be considered as early as possible in the pupil’s career since they bear directly upon depth of appreciation and understanding as the pupil progresses.

Three cardinal points for the young musician to analyse are FORM, MOOD and STYLE.

FORM

Try to discover first of all the Form of the composition to be studied. If, for example, it is in the Dance Form, it is obvious that RHYTHM IS UPPERMOST. It is the Rhythm that makes the dance.

Preserve therefore a sharp rhythm and carefully observe all accents.

In Dance Forms it is also obvious that TEMPO is important.

The Tempo is indicated by the character of the dance (Minuet, Waltz, Mazurka, etc.), and in modern editions is usually shown by the Metronome mark.

Set the proper Tempo and hold it rather strictly throughout.

Suppose, however, the piece is written in Lyrical, or Song Form. In this case Interpretation will be quite different. Here quality of tone is of vital importance. The Melody Line must be traced and kept intact.

Remember the rule, set forth earlier in this Course: “A Melody Line is always changing in thickness”—and strive for gradation and variety of tone.

The Rhythm in a lyric piece is more elastic than in the dance form and a certain ‘bending’ of the Tempo if used with discretion, is desirable.

MOOD

The Mood of a composition is determined quite often by the title,—otherwise by the character of the music itself.

Decide whether the piece is in Happy or Sad mood.

Also the depth of the emotional content is to be considered. For instance, is the music hilarious or simply cheerful and bright? Is it tragic or merely pensive and reflective?

Expression marks offer a certain definite amount of help and, for a time, the young pupil depends upon the guidance of the teacher in these matters. But the sooner he is trained to use his own powers of analysis, the better.

It need hardly be pointed out that the mood of any composition is likely to change with the entrance of a new theme—sometimes even with the entrance of a new phrase—and frequently jumps from one extreme to another.

STYLE

The matter of Style is very subtle and difficult to teach. Each composer has an individual style, as has each period of music.—Classic, Romantic or Modern.

A certain phrase, in Beethoven’s day, for example, would be given quite different treatment than that accorded the same phrase encountered in a composition of Debussy, or others of the more modern composers.

For the most part a knowledge, and finally a mastery of Style comes only after years of study, analysis and intelligent listening and observation.

In addition to the above, remember that Contrast is a primary law of all Art, and search diligently to apply contrast intelligently to each new composition.

Legato followed by staccato; forte by piano; major by minor; fast by slow—all these devices secure contrast and pupils should early be taught to consider them as vital factors in Interpretation.

The difference between a young artist, the artistic home pianist and a keyboard stenographer, to use a common phrase,—is a matter of learning the intangible values of good interpretation. Naturally it is the fervent hope of the author that all students using this book may develop into young artists.
ROBERT SCHUMANN was born June 8, 1810 in the village of Zwickau, at that time in the Kingdom of Saxony. His father was a book-seller and through that influence young Robert was brought into contact with literature and languages. He was sent to the University at Leipzig to study law. He displayed a gift for music at an early age, and while at the University, took up the study of the piano with Friedrich Wieck. He became so interested that he gave up law and devoted himself entirely to music. He fell in love with Wieck's daughter Clara, a fine musician and celebrated pianiste, who became his wife in 1840.

In the following year he composed nearly 150 songs, many of which were set to the verses of the German poet Heine. In addition to composing and conducting, he became famous as an editor of a musical magazine. He lived during the Romantic period of the 19th Century and is known as a romantic composer.

**INTERPRETATION**

**FORM:** This piece is obviously in the Lyric or Song form. Play the right hand melody with your best possible singing tone while the left hand accompaniment supplies a subdued, but ever-moving background.

**MOOD:** It should be played in thoughtful, reflective mood. Not too serious and not too carefree. Keep a moderate tempo and follow the marks of expression.

---

**Melody**

Moderato

Schumann
(1810-1856)

\[\text{Notation of the melody with musical notes and symbols.}\]

---

*For technical development use John Thompson's THIRD GRADE VELOCITY STUDIES.*

W. M. Co. 9955
MUSETTE: An instrument with pipes or reeds and drone in which the wind is supplied by a bellows, like a bag-pipe. It was modeled on the Irish uilleann, or elbow pipes. The term also applies to a small and primitive kind of oboe.

A royal piper, named Detouches, completely captivated the French Court with his expert performance on the Musette. He had a beautiful instrument covered with velvet and handsomely embroidered with fleur-de-lis; the chanters and drones were of exquisite workmanship.

During the reign of Louis XIV, this instrument was exceedingly popular at all royal courts and at the musical entertainments of the nobility. In 1670 it was introduced in the French orchestra. Jean-Baptiste de Lully, a member of the King's famous “Band of Twenty-Four”, made use of the Musette in the many ballets he wrote for the court in which Louis XIV himself danced enthusiastically.

Johann Sebastian Bach introduced the “Musette” form in his English Suites (No. 3 and 6), a compliment indeed to the bag-pipe and its appropriateness for pastoral dances. The “musette” form was also used by Gluck and Handel.

**INTERPRETATION**

**FORM:** Dance Form. In music, the term MUSETTE applies to an air in 2/4, 3/4, or 6/8 time, moderate in tempo and suited to the character and range of the instrument. In the following example the broken octaves of the left hand supply the drone effect of the bag-pipe against the melodic passages of the right hand.

**MOOD:** Giocoso, which denotes sportive, playful. Secure contrast by making wide distinction between PIANO and FORTE. Phrase carefully.

---

W. M. Co. 5825
MARCH was undoubtedly of military origin. Its vigorous and effective rhythm usually predominates wherever pomp and splendour are evident. During the Middle Ages, the French folk-songs of the period show the influence of the marching Crusaders. A Crusaders' song, bearing the title "Nalbrough to War Has Gone", was used by Napoleon's troops and also by Beethoven in his "Battle Symphony". This song bears a strikingly close resemblance to the popular "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

The refrain of the popular aria for baritone, the "Toreador Song" from Bizet's Spanish opera "Carmen", is a colorful example of MARCH RHYTHM.

In the second act, at the inn of Lillas Pastia, gipsy smugglers, with some officers and soldiers, have been carousing until late into the night. Carmen has been singing and dancing. It is about time to close up for the night. Suddenly, from outside come the sounds of a procession and shouts, "Hail! Escamillo! Escamillo, the bull-fighter; the champion of the ring at Granada!" Escamillo enters and joins in their toast. Emboldened by the welcome, he assumes an attitude of careless bravado and boastfully sings of the dangers, quick action and triumphs of a toreador. The brilliant uniform, carefree manner and fame of this handsome bull-fighter fairly fascinates Carmen.

The following example has practically the same characteristics as a MILITARY MARCH. Set a good Tempo and preserve it throughout. Let the rhythm be sharply marked with plenty of accent. Play with spirit and care-free abandon.

Toreador Song

March tempo

from the Opera "Carmen"  
Georges Bizet  
(1838-1875)

For technical development, use John Thompson's "Third Grade Book of Velocity"

W. M. Co. 5825
Many passages for piano solo are scored on three staves, and while at first glance this may seem to complicate matters, it will be found upon examination that it actually simplifies the reading. Everybody wants to play songs and since they are written on three staves this piece will afford splendid preliminary practice.

In the following example, note that the left hand crosses over the right and plays all the notes on the upper staff. See how effectively you can play this beautiful old Irish Folk-song which was named for the village of Londonderry. Give to it your best possible singing touch and try to imitate the tones of a 'cello. Pedal carefully and follow the marks of expression.

Londonderry Air

Irish Folk-song
DANCES are continually undergoing changes. All nations have traditionally distinctive forms of folk-dances. Those of England may be traced to three categories—the Sword Dance, the Morris Dance and the Country Dance. The Morris Dance possibly evolved from the Sword Dance. It derives its name from 15th Century Moors called Morisco. The Country Dance differs from the others in that it is danced by men and women in couples. Towards the end of the 16th Century it had become so popular at the Court of Queen Elizabeth that the Earl of Worcester, in writing of the merry country dances said: "Her Majesty is exceedingly pleased therewith".

Since 1650 the word Country-Dance has been used to define the national dance of England. Court and Social dances evidently originated among the peasantry and evolved from adoptions of some of the dances held at the court-halls of France. In 18th Century England, the ball opened with couples promenading around the room to the music of a March; then Minuets were danced followed by Gavottes and merry Country Dances.

The following is an excellent example of the old English Dance. It should be played at a moderate tempo, in well-marked rhythm and with stateliness.

Dorothy

Old English Dance

Seymour Smith

Moderato

\[
\text{ marcato}
\]

\[\text{ I.h.} \]

\[\text{ mp} \]

\[\text{ sf} \]

\[\text{ cresc.} \]

\[\text{ mf} \]

W. M. Co. 5925
The following composition is in the DANCE FORM and rhythm is therefore of paramount importance. Preserve a sharp, brittle rhythm through the entire piece. Set a fairly animated tempo and keep it intact. As suggested by the title, the mood is one of eerie mystery. Make a wide contrast between legato and staccato. Be sure to give plenty of emphasis to the sudden accents that occur at unexpected intervals. In the last four measures the Witches fade away as noiselessly as shadows – (dim. . . . . . pp)

Witches' Dance

Allegro animato

Th. Kullak, Op. 4, No. 2
(1818-1882)

W. M. Co. 5825
FRANZ PETER SCHUBERT, whose lyric compositions have thrilled the world, was born of very poor parents in Vienna, January 31, 1797. His father was a school-master and his mother, like Beethoven's mother, had been a cook. When he was eight years old, his father taught him to play the violin. He had such an exquisite soprano voice at the age of eleven that he was sent to a religious school where boys who sang in the Emperor's Chapel were educated. By the time he was eighteen years old he had written 150 songs and at the age of thirty-one over 600 songs, many piano pieces, and nine Symphonies were credited to his pen.

Schubert lived during a period of great unrest in Europe; he was only thirty-one years old when he died and despite his prolific contribution to music he was very poor when he died in Vienna, Nov. 19, 1828.

The SERENADE was written as a song for mezzo-soprano solo and chorus. Grillparzer, a friend of Anna Fröhlich wrote the words to celebrate the birthday of one of her pupils. It was sung for the first time in the open air under moonlight.

Serenade

Op: 134

Schubert (1797-1828)
Arr. by J. T.

Moderato

In piano music, the sign † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † "detached."

W. M. Co. 8825
The SPINNING-WHEEL, an English invention of about 1550, was used by early American settlers for spinning their yarn. It was usually made by wheelwrights and consisted of a rotary spindle operated by a fly-wheel and treadle. The Cherokee Indians around the Great Smokey Mountains were taught by English Colonists to become expert weavers and spinners. A Cherokee wheelwright became quite famous for his beautiful Spinning-wheels which were frequently presented as gifts to brides and grooms of the grand old mountain-folk.

Descendants of these early colonists still spin as of old. In the fairly recent photo, we depict one of the rugged inhabitants from the “Heart of the Great Smokies” of Tennessee at her wheel.

The Spinning-wheel has been the inspiration for many great masters of music; Mendelssohn in his songs, Wagner in his operas, etc. One of the most delightful scenes in Flotow’s opera “Martha” is built around the Spinning-wheel Quartet.

*From “The Lure of the Great Smokies” by Robert L. Mason

Spinning Song

Allegretto

Albert Elitbreich
(1816-1906)

W. M. Co. 5825
BENJAMIN GODARD, romantic composer, was born in Paris, August 18, 1849. During his brief span of life (46 years) he wrote a series of chamber compositions—Trios and String Quartets—Operas and many Songs. He orchestrated Schumann’s Scenes from Childhood which was produced at the Concerts du Châtelet in 1876.

His first opera, The Jewels of Jeannette (one act) was given in Paris in 1878. Ten years later, on February 25, 1888, his opera in four acts, JOCELYN, was produced in Brussels, and on October 13, it was heard for the first time in Paris. It was only fairly successful, but the BERCEUSE has won undying popularity. In Act II, outside the cave of the Eagles, Jocelyn (the tenor role), sings the beautiful song which has been here transcribed for piano.

**INTERPRETATION**

Play quietly in the style of a Cradle Song and make the most of the melody in the second section marked Andante Moderato.

Berceuse

*from “Jocelyn”*

Andantino

---

Benjamin Godard (1849-1895)

Transcribed by J. T.
ACCENTS

\(=\) An accent of ordinary intensity.
\(\wedge\) = The wedge-shaped accent indicates unusual emphasis.
Accents are also indicated by the sign, \(sf\), called \(sf\)orzando. This should not be confused with the sign, \(f\) (forte) which means loud.

**Will-o' the wisp**

*An Etude in fore-arm staccato*

Leggiero, volante

Franz Behr, Op. 309, No. 2

\(\text{W. M. Co. 5825}\)
CHAMBER-MUSIC: The term commonly applies to instrumental music such as String Trios, Quartets, etc., suitable for performance in a room or small hall. The early history of chamber-music dates back to the 16th Century. Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612), organist at St. Marks in Venice, experimented with combinations by introducing madrigals for instruments instead of for voices. He wrote a Canzona for two violins, cornetti, tenor and two trombones which was published in 1615, three years after his death. This was probably the first chamber-music.

Chamber-music originated in the contacts between musicians and lovers of music. It was written to be played in the drawing-rooms of the nobility for the enjoyment of the players and the listeners. In orchestra playing, the effect is the result of a duplication of mass in sound whereas in chamber-music, each player is individual, but the group must think and feel together.

When Louis XIV, le Grand Monarque, was King of France, he appointed François Couperin his personal music-master and the royal organist. Couperin began to develop trios in the concerts he gave every Sunday evening for the King and his court at Versailles.

Frederick the Great frequently took part in Chamber concerts at Sans-Souci during his reign in Prussia (1740-1786).

In Beethoven's day, chamber-music was the accepted form by which symphonies could be played in the home. This great master of symphony wrote five string Trios, sixteen Quartets, two Quintets, two Sextets, and a Septet.

The example on the opposite page is part of a Minuet from his famous Septet in E♭, Op. 70, scored for Clarinet in B♭, Bassoon, Horn in E♭, Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass. He was probably very fond of the opening theme for he used it (with quite different treatment) in one of his Sonatas.
Preparatory Exercises

Minuet
from "Septet"

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)

Choice Third Grade teaching pieces are listed on page 93.

W. M. Co. 5825
THE comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan have become classic examples of English Light Opera. Sir Arthur Sullivan was born in London, May 13, 1842. In his youth he sang in a choir. At the age of twenty-five, he wrote a one act operetta, Cox and Box, which brought about his partnership with Wm. S. Gilbert and resulted in their many successful entertainments. PINAFORE was produced in London, May 25, 1878 and for the first time in New York, January 15, 1879. The libretto is a satire on the English navy during the Victorian period. There are two acts. The action takes place on the Quarterdeck of "H. M. S. Pinafore".

The sailors are scrubbing the deck singing, "We Sail the Ocean Blue" as Little Buttercup, considerably larger than her name, appears with "snuff and tobaccy". All are happy except Ralph Jack straw who has hopelessly fallen in love with the Captain's daughter, Josephine. She, however, is to be betrothed to the Admiral, Sir John Porter, who has never sailed the sea. Josephine and Ralph plan to elope but the villain Dick Deadeye overhears the conversation and threatens them.

Sir Joseph tries to win Josephine, believing her shyness is due to his exalted rank; so he explains that love can level all ranks. While Buttercup tries to console the Captain, Deadeye exposes the plot and Ralph is arrested. But Little Buttercup saves the day when she discloses her secret by telling how she nursed two babies many years ago, one of high degree and one of low, and accidentally got them mixed: "The well-born baby was Ralph; your Captain was the other". Whereupon the Admiral gives Josephine to Ralph who now takes command of the ship. The erstwhile Captain proposes to Little Buttercup and the jolly crew sing: "It's greatly to his credit that he's an Englishman".

Excerpts from H. M. S. Pinafore

Gilbert and Sullivan
(1836-1911) (1842-1900)
The word BALLAD is very old. Coming from the Italian "Ballata" it means dance with accompaniment. In French, "Ballade" means dancing song. At one time the word BALLAD meant a song set to dance rhythm which was danced and sung at the same time. BALLADS, such as the Marseillaise and the Wacht am Rhein have had great political influence on the destinies of Nations. Fletcher of Saltoun said: "If a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation."

In its present form an instrumental ballad is, as a rule, simply an imaginary poem or story set to music.

What story or poem does this music suggest to you?

Ballade

Friedrich Burgmüller
SARABANDE

a stately dance of Spanish or Oriental origin, is said to have been invented by a Spanish Ancient...

Grave

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Monarch of England, Faithfully, but when he died he left a

for £6,000 against the crown. His son, William Penn, de-

was born at Halle, the southern part of Germany. He

came to found a colony in the New World accepted the

in honor of his father's death, he devoted his entire time to

spending three years in Italy and eventually settling in En-

where he assumed the post as Tutor of the Royal Princess.

became blind six years before his death in 1739.

Charles II. His...

By the time he was twelve years old he became an assistant ori-

After his father's death, he devoted his entire time to m-

...called for the Duke of Buckingham and opened new receiv-

...possible to the King...
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK, German composer, was born in the Rhine province of Siegburg, September 22. His children to be used for a home Christmas celebration. She sent them to her brother to be set to music. Humperdinck made frequent use of German folk-songs. The first performance in Weimar, December 23, 1893 was instantaneous success and equally so in New York, October 8, 1895.

Once upon a time, in a corner of the woods, there lived a broom-maker, his wife, and two children, Hänsel and Gretel. They needed food, the father and mother went to sell brooms to the children to do the house work. They soon grew tired, hungry, so Gretel cheers Hänsel with a song, Brother, (Come With Me. When their mother returns she scolds them neglecting their work and sends them into the woods to pick berries.

By night-fall they have eaten all the berries and are lost in the forest. Tired, they rest under a tree. The Sandman comes, say their Evening Prayer and falls asleep, while angels keep and watch over them.

Awakened by the Dawn Fairy, they are surprised to see a sugar-candy house near by; the house of the wicked witch of Bitte. She enchains Hänsel, locks him in a cage and fills his foot with glee at the prospect of a meel. Then she seeks Gretel, tending to bake her in the huge oven. But Gretel finds a match and pushes the witch in instead. Lo and behold! the spell is broken, the oven falls apart, the Gingerbread children come to life, their fathers and mothers find them and all dance merrily.

**Come, Dance With Me**

*A from Hänsel and Gretel, Act I*  

Humperdinck (1854-1921)

Adapted by J.T.

[W. M. Co. 5825]
(B) Evening Prayer

from Hänsel and Gretel, Act II

Humperdinck (1854–1921)
Adapted by J. T.
To JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH students of piano playing owe more than to any other composer of the Baroque period. Before his time, owing to the system of tuning, it was possible to play in only a limited number of keys. Bach, who had always tuned his own clavichord, devised the "Tempered Scale" system of tuning which made it possible to play with equal ease in all major and minor keys. Then he composed his famous "Well-Tempered Clavichord" (two volumes of Preludes and Fugues written in each major and minor key). He also introduced a systematic use of the Thumb—a custom not observed before—which greatly increased the technical possibilities of keyboard instruments.

The word PRELUDE, as its name suggests, is a preliminary movement; a sort of Introduction to the main body of a composition. However, the term is often used to designate a short number, complete in itself. In French it is called Prelude; in Italian, Preludio; in Latin, Praeambulum; in German, Vorspiel; and sometimes the word, Praeambulum is used. All have the same meaning.

In playing this Prelude from Bach, be sure to observe strictly the marks of phrasing.

MORDENT:

The little embellishment found on the third line (left hand) is called a MORDENT.

Written \[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{Prelude in C}
\end{array} \]

Bach (1685-1750)

For additional study of Bach use AN INTRODUCTION TO BACH— an album of 15 short examples compiled, arranged and edited by John Thompson. Price 75 cents.
The HARPSICHORD was an important instrument of the 16th, 17th and early 18th Centuries. Instead of being struck by hammers, the strings were plucked by quills set upon wooden jacks. The compass was 4½ octaves. The Harpsichord and Clavic- chord (Cléves being the Latin name for keys and Chorda meaning strings) were the forerunners of the piano.

Bartolomeo Christofori (1655-1731) of Padua, Italy, was renowned as a famous Harpsichord maker. When Prince Ferdinand di Medici heard of him in 1716, he appointed him instrument-maker in Florence. In this capacity he made the first pianoforte.

During the reign of Louis XIV, Jacques Chambonier was the foremost representative of harpsichord music. He was the teacher of François Couperin, the Elder (1661-1698) uncle of the celebrated François referred to on page 26.

Early sonatas and sonatinas were composed for the Harpsichord and Clavicord. As these instruments were small and light and easily carried from room to another, the tone was correspondingly delicate. Consequently, the limitations of these instruments should be kept in mind when performing such music on a modern piano. Delicacy of tone and grace of style is of utmost importance. Avoid robust forte and bravura generally.

SONATINA means "Little Sonata". The word SONATA literally means sound piece. In the early days an instrumental piece was called Sonata to distinguish it from a vocal piece, which was called Cantata. Later, both words assumed a more definite musical meaning, having to do with FORM. The Sonata is considered the highest form of music.

This perfect example of a "little sound piece" by Clementi has the character but not the form of a true sonata. It was composed in three movements but for the present the first movement is quite adequate.

IT SHOULD BE PLAYED IN CLASSIC STYLE.

Sonatina

M. Clementi, Op. 36, No. 1
(1752-1832)
For supplementary pieces in sheet form, see page 93.

W. M. Co. 5828
SINGING by groups, called chorus, originated centuries ago. In ancient Greek drama, the "chorus" were spectators of the play who expressed their sentiments in songs between the acts. Musical contests were frequently included in the Olympic games. With the advent and spread of Christianity, part-songs (choral music) began to take form. Early chant, sung by the Crusaders in their conquest of the Holy Land, was sung in unison. Soon, however, church music began to evolve towards the style we call polyphonic ("many voiced") music which was sung in three and four parts by the choirs.

The Round is among the early forms of choral music, dating from a period of which there are but few records. It was very popular in England during the 16th and 17th Centuries. From 1843 to 1911 there was a Society in London, The Round, Catch and Canon Club, founded for the purpose of singing the new compositions in the form of Round, Catch or Canon.

A ROUND is a piece designed in one part but so ingeniously planned that it can be taken up at stated periods, continually passing 'round and 'round by several voices which combine in pleasing harmony. Most people are familiar with the famous round "Three Blind Mice". "Dona Nobis Pacem" is an old Christmas round written by an unknown German composer of the 16th or 17th Century. It is quite widely used in several European countries and is arranged here as a piano solo but may also be used very effectively as a choral piece by the teacher's pupils on a Christmas program.

FIRST: Have the pupils learn the melody complete in UNISON. Next, divide the singers into three groups; two groups of sopranos and one of altos. If there are boys, divide into sopranos, altos and a group of boys.

Each group sings the "ROUND" through THREE times. However, they begin and end at different times. Group ONE begins by singing the first line (No. 1). As this group begins the second line (No. 2) the second group begins singing the first line (No. 1). Two-part singing is now in effect. As the first group reaches the third line (No. 3) and the second group begins the second line (No. 2) the third group begins the first line (No. 1) and from this point three-part choral singing is heard in good harmony until the various groups drop out, one group at a time, as they come to the end of the third rendition.

To my friend Peter Dykema who brought this beautiful Round to my attention

Dona Nobis Pacem

Grant Unto Us Peace

PIANO SOLO

Round by an unknown German Composer of the 16th or 17th Century

Arranged by J.T.
La CUCARACHA (The Cockroach) is a Mexican Folk-song said to have originated in the army. In tropical countries, the lowly cockroach is omnipresent and is joked about as is the mosquito, the fly, etc., in other lands. As with all army songs, this one has a countless number of verses—each new regiment doing its bit by way of addition. It has been adapted here in the form of an exercise for passing under the thumb.

Play the repeated notes, divided between the hands, marcato, well marked—and let all staccatos be crisp and brittle.

Observe the sustained notes in the left hand in measures 15 to 21 and be sure to note where the melody lies in the bass part on page 45, lines two and three.

La Cucaracha
(The Cockroach)

Moderato

Mexican Folk-song
Adapted by J.T.

W. M. Co. 5825
il basso marcato

marchato

W. M. Co. 5826
The WALTZ (In German, Waltz; French, Valse; Italian, Valse) a round dance in 3/4 time, varying from slow to moderately fast, first appeared in Bavaria and Austria about 1780. Its origin has been attributed to Bohemia, Germany and France. When the waltz was introduced in England in 1812, society was quite shocked. In Country Dances, the participants indulged in nothing more intimate than touching each other's hands; imagine therefore, the sudden effect waltzing couples made who, almost embracing each other, were swinging about the ball-room with whirling motion.

Emil Waldteufel was born in Strassburg, Germany, December 9, 1837. He studied music at the Paris Conservatoire and later was employed in a piano factory. At one time he was appointed Court Pianist to the Empress Eugenia, wife of Napoleon III. His first waltzes he published at his own expense and after considerable success devoted himself exclusively to this type of music.

INTERPRETATION
Establish a good rhythm from the very beginning and preserve it throughout. Play the first theme in a well-sustained manner, and expressivo. Toss off the two-note slurs in the second theme rather sharply. Make sharp contrast between staccato and sostenuto in the third theme. Be sure to emphasize the counter theme in the last part of the next (trill) section. End with a brilliant Coda.

The Skaters
Waltz
Emile Waldteufel (1837-1915)
Adapted by J.T.
EDVARD GRIEG was born in Bergen, Norway, June 15, 1843. He received his early musical training from his mother. At the age of 15 he met the idol of his dreams, the noted Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull, who related astounding stories of his journeys to America. This paved the way to direct Grieg's musical career. After graduating from the school in Germany founded by Mendelssohn, he returned to Norway and devoted himself to the cause of a national Norwegian music. At his death, in 1907, fifty-seven governments sent official representatives to attend his funeral.

Grieg had his inspiration for the Watchman's Song from a performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Written in lyric style, it is a simple song for piano depicting the humming of a Night Watchman.

**INTERPRETATION**
Do not allow the TEMPO to drag—the alla breve sign offsets somewhat the MOLTO ANDANTE in the text. About \( \frac{3}{4} \) is the correct tempo.
The middle section is in the form of a short INTERMEZZO and portrays the Spirit of the Night. This section should be played MYSTERIOSO, beginning very softly and growing into FORTE in the third and fourth measures. The arpeggio passage should be rolled rather than fingered with fingers kept close to the keys. Like most of Grieg's compositions, this piece calls for vivid imagination on the part of the performer.

**Watchman's Song**
As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I looked toward Birnam, and anon, me thought,
The wood began to move.  

---

**Molto andante e semplice**

---

**Edvard Grieg, Op. 12, No. 3**
(1843-1907)
TARANTELLA: An Italian dance which derives its name from the legend originating in Taranto, a city in the mountain country, in the “heel of the boot”, of Italy. This city gave its name to the venomous spider; the tarantula. According to tradition, if anyone bitten by the dreaded spider will dance the TARANTELLA hard enough, and long enough, he will prevent himself from falling into a coma and eventually yielding to the deadly poison.

The above gives a definite clue to interpretation. The Tempo is quite fast. Learn the piece first by counting six to the measure—one count to each eighth. Then, as speed develops, it should be played. Two counts to the measure. One count to each dotted quarter, or group of three eighths. The mood is of ever-increasing excitement, beginning with Vivace and becoming more furious.

Tarantella

Be sure to observe the frequent two-note slurs, a characteristic of the Tarantella.

Vivace

John Thompson

W. M. Co. 5525
The SYMPHONY-ORCHESTRA, as known today, developed from Chamber Music and Corelli's "Band of Twenty-four" in the service of Louis XIV. During his residence at the Esterhazy Palace, Haydn, who had been so successful with String Quartets, began to group his small orchestra into four separate sections: (1) The String Choir: violins, viola, 'cello, double-bass. (2) The Woodwind Choir: flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon. (3) The Brass Choir: trumpets, French horn, trombone, tuba. (4) The Percussion Choir: drums, cymbals, bells, gongs. This is the physical form and balance of the famous Symphony-Orchestras which render the masterpieces of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, etc. Symphonic music is actually a *SONATA for orchestra, a harmonious mingling of sounds bearing witness to the influence of historic events, geographical and political changes. James G. Huneker says: "The most profound truths, the most blasphemous things, the most terrible ideas may be incorporated within the walls of a symphony, and the police be none the wiser. It is its freedom from the meddlesome hand of the censor that makes of music a playground for great brave souls."

Mozart wrote his great Symphonic examples in 1788 but it remained for Beethoven to bring the symphony to its most perfect stage of development.

PETER ILYITCH TCHAIKOVSKY was born in Yatkinsk, Russia, April 25, 1840. His father, a government inspector of mines, was a very prominent man in the district. His mother came of a French family which had emigrated to Russia during the Revolution. She was quite accomplished, and devoted to her children. At the age of four, Peter received piano lessons from a governess. When he was 8 years old, the family moved to Moscow and later to Petrograd. In 1859, he graduated from the School of Jurisprudence and entered the Ministry of Justice as a clerk. In 1862, he decided to devote himself entirely to music and composing. His String Quartet, Op. 11 was played for the first time at a concert given in honor of Tolstoy in 1876 and in the same year he began the famous correspondence with Nadezhda von Meck. In 1891, he visited the United States and took part in the programs played for the dedication of Carnegie Hall.

The short excerpt on pages 55 is from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, known as the "Pathétique". It is one of the most popular of orchestral works and belongs to the giants of music. The idea came to him as he was setting out on a journey to Paris in Dec. 1892. In writing to Davidov, to whom the work is dedicated, Tchaikovsky said: "During the journey, while composing it in my mind, I often wept bitterly". He conducted the first performance (St. Petersburg, October 16, 1893) himself, and was convinced that it was his greatest work. Nine days later he died.

Some have pointed to a fragment of the Russian requiem in the first movement as significant that it was to be his last work.

*The SONATA form is of such importance that it will be fully exemplified in John Thompson's Fourth Grade Book.*
The ANDANTE is a song of speaking pathos: The first motive, repeated, is answered by a phrase of blended beauty. Play right hand theme with the PRESSURE touch. Pay strict attention to phrasing and expression marks. Use pedal only as indicated.

From 6th Symphony Op. 74
Pathétique

Peter Tchaikovsky
(1840–1893)
The GAVOTTE is an old French court dance-form trod by
the courtiers of the 16th and 17th Centuries. It is said
to have been derived from the Gavots, a race of people in
Dauphine.

For a time the Gavotte was neglected but it was revived by
Marie Antonette. Her teacher, Christoph Willibald Gluck
(1714-1787), famous as the father of French opera, composed
special music for her and the dance became quite popular at
Versailles. After the Revolution, the Gavotte was once more
revived.

The example beginning on this page is an arrangement of a
very famous Gavotte written for a 'cello solo by David Popper,
himself a cellist of the first rank. Born in Prague in 1846, he
displayed early evidence of remarkable talent. He made ex-
tensive concert tours in Europe. His compositions for 'cello are
acclaimed by concert artists.

**INTERPRETATION**
The Gavotte is in common time of moderately fast movement and always begins
on the third beat of the measure. Pay attention to the contrasting staccato and
legato, keep even tempo and observe the dynamic marks.

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**Gavotte**

*David Popper (1846-1913)*

Adapted by J. T.

[Music notation image]

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W. M. Co. 5825
STRING QUARTETS are the most popular form of chamber music. There are examples of quartets for stringed instruments as far back as the time of Allegri (1584-1652), a musician of the Papal Chapel in Rome who wrote a four-part Sonata for strings. The Quartet, as we know it, was developed by Haydn (1732-1800), who, as court musician to the Prince of Esterhazy on his Hungarian estates in 1761, devoted much of his time to composing chamber music for special occasions. He wrote more than seventy-five string quartets.

LUIGI BOCCHERINI, worthy contemporary of Haydn, was born in Lucca, Italy, February 19, 1731. He was a fine cellist and became chamber-musician to the Infante Luis of Spain. Most of the music of his day was written for voice in four parts which inspired him to arrange it for four stringed instruments, thereby creating a new style of chamber-music. In 1787 Frederick Wilhelm of Prussia conferred on him the title of chamber-composer. Boccherini wrote 91 String quartets and 125 quintets.

Many famous organizations, such as the Kneisel Quartet and the Fonzalez, have become world renowned by giving chamber music concerts in the leading cities of America and Europe.

Scored for First Violin, Second Violin, Viola and 'Cello, each instrument has its own peculiar charm.

Minuet

from String Quartet

Luigi Boccherini
(1743-1805)
ROMANCE: Originally a ballad in verse but later transferred to stories of love and tales of knighthly chivalry. The term applies more to the character than the actual form of a musical composition. In other words, it is an expression of personal sentiment rather than precise structural form.

The romantic period of the 19th century was indeed an era of the melodist. Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schumann, Rubinstein and Massenet, etc., were active in Europe while Stephen Foster (1826-1864) the father of the American ballad was inspired at home. Reginald DeKoven (1859-1922) brought tears to fond eyes at weddings with "Oh, Promise Me". Edward MacDowell (1860-1908) contributed "To a Wild Rose". Ethelbert Nevin's (1862-1901) beautiful "The Rosary" was sung for the first time by Francis Rogers in 1898. Many European musicians were touring the country. When Paderewski passed through a town hundreds rushed to the railroad station.

ANTON GREGOR RUBINSTEIN was born in Vichvatinets, Russia, Nov. 28, 1829. His mother was well educated in music and literature. When he was five years old she found him getting music out of a little home-made instrument and immediately began to give him piano lessons. At this time, his happy-go-lucky father moved his family to Moscow and established a pencil factory. During the next four years Anton studied under the noted master, Villoing. In 1840, he was taken to Paris where Liszt proclaimed him "an infant prodigy" and encouraged him to play in other cities. He also played for Chopin, Queen Victoria of England and the Queen of Holland. At one of his concerts, Mendelssohn conducted him to the piano. His fame as the "Russian boy with fingers as light as a feather" spread to every continent. After the death of his father, he settled in St. Petersburg as a teacher-composer, also giving occasional concerts. In 1849, the grand Duchess Helen made him court pianist. After another concert tour he became the director of a conservatory in St. Petersburg but was obliged to give it up in 1867 because of pressing concert engagements. Czar Alexander II decorated him with the Order of Vladimir in 1869.

An enthusiastic reception awaited Rubinstein on his arrival in the U. S. in 1872. He played in two hundred and fifteen concerts. In most of them he played his own compositions among which the Romance was always a favorite.
Romance

Play with your best possible singing tone and try to give to the interpretation a feeling of deep sentiment and poetic eloquence.

Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894)
(Adapted)

Andante con moto

legato cantabile

W. M. Co. 5825
THERE was a proverb in old Russia: "Song is truth; a
the expression of our life". Nearly every activity
the daily life of the Russian people is expressed by some ly
to accompany it. Many of the Russian folk-tunes suggest
the fiery, vigorous and fascinating rhythms of the Orient,
the atmosphere of color, mystery and vitality. Decisive and
tense rhythm is omnipresent in all Russian folk-lore.

Many of the gayest and most dashing folk-dances, espesially music of gipsy origin, are written in the minor mo
as we have experienced in playing the Russian Gipsy So
"Two Guitars" in the SECOND GRADE BOOK.

INTERPRETATION
In order to emphasize the syncopation be sure to observe all accents, staccatos and sostenuto marks. Set a lively tempo and pedal only as marked.

Bublitchki

Pretzels

Russian Folk Song

Allegro-Marcato

W. M. Co. 5825
JULES MASSENET, famous French composer, was born May 12, 1842. His father had been an officer under Napoleon Bonaparte. His mother, a musically accomplished woman, taught him the elements of music by placing his tiny hands on a piano and writing the notes corresponding to the black and white keys with their respective positions on lines and spaces on a strip of paper and stretching it on the piano keyboard.

His progress in music and composition was marvelous. Before he was twenty-one years old, he won the Grand Prix de Rome with his cantata David Rizzio. This prize entitled him to a period of study in Italy.

Upon his return to Paris, he entered seriously upon the work of composition. His works consist of operas (Roi de Lahore, Esclarmonde, Herodiade, Cid, Werther, etc.), orchestral music, piano music, and songs.

This composition is in LYRIC FORM. The mood is wistful and sad. This effect is obtained by the chromatic descent of the left-hand melody. Be sure to observe the passages marked portamento—indicated by the curved line and the dots, thus ○○○ Long, but detached is the proper rendition of portamento passages. Strive for the utmost expression.

Melody

Lento, ma non troppo

Massenet (1842-1912)

W. M. Co. 5825
FRANZ LISZT composed fifteen Hungarian Rhapsodies. The second is perhaps the best known and loved of the entire set. The word Rhapsodie pertains to the form of the composition and is used to designate a work fantastic in character, which does not adhere to the more conventional forms, and is built upon more or less isolated fragments.

GYPSY MUSIC has all the absence of restraint which characterizes these nomadic people. It is as free as the wind which blows ‘withersoever it listeth’ and is always intensely expressive. Since it is for the most part improvised, it follows closely the varying mood of the performer and is apt to range from deepest melancholy to fiery abandon.

HUNGARIAN RHAPSODIES are constructed on Gypsy airs. Of obscure origin, the Gypsies were a wandering race of ancient and romantic history, harried by persecutions from one country to another, and finding at long last a haven in Hungary. Here too they found a real and understanding sympathy toward their music which was finally adopted as the national music of Hungary.

IN COMPOSING his rhapsodies Liszt usually chose airs that portrayed contrasting emotions. The Lasson, for example, is a slow and mournful song of deepest depression. This is followed by the Friska, a bright, playful and capricious dance and ends with the Czardas, furious in character and quite as intoxicating rhythmically as the Tarantelle of Italy or the Dervish dances of the Orient.

The three moods can be easily recognized in the following adaptation of the ever popular HUNGARIAN RHAPSODIE, Number Two of Franz Liszt.
Adaptation of
Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 2

Lento a capriccio

Liszt (1811-1886)
Adapted by J. T.

poco rit.

più ritenuto

Andante mesto

LASSAN

W. M. Co. 5825
FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN'S compositions reflect joy and sorrow for his beloved Poland. Stanislaus Augustus was the last King of Poland. Under this unfortunate sovereign, the country became the theater of a long and devastating war, besieged by Cossacks and brutal Muscovite soldiers. Then came the division. Catherine II of Russia, Maria Teresa of Austria and Frederick the Great each taking a slice of unhappy Poland. In 1830 a revolution took place but ended in the surrender of Warsaw and the dispersion of the Poles. In 1832, what remained, was declared part of the Russian Empire. Chopin's grief over the loss of Polish independence reached its climax in the third movement of his Second Sonata, Op. 35 as expressed in the Funeral March.

INTERPRETATION

Play this "Prelude" in a manner to suggest the solemnity of a funeral procession. Try to obtain utmost resonance. Use arm attack and give a little emphasis to the upper, or soprano voice. Apply the pedal immediately AFTER each chord has been struck.

Prelude in C Minor

Op. 28, No. 20

Chopin (1810-1849)
The MINUET, in French, Menuet, from menu-small (referring to small steps), is one of the earlier dance-forms supposed to have originated in the French province of Poitou about the end of the 17th Century.

The minuet is in triple time, has a slow, stately movement and frequently occurs in Suites, Sonatas and Symphonies.

During the 18th Century this dance-form became the favorite at many of the court balls in Europe. English Christmas parties danced gaily to its graceful rhythm. In Colonial America it was especially popular in Virginia.

Beethoven’s Minuet in G is an excellent example. While he used the minuet form in many of his works he was the first to introduce in its stead, in Sonata and Symphony, the livelier scherzo.

**INTERPRETATION**

Simplicity is the real charm of this famous Minuet. 
Play with expression but avoid extremes. 
The TRIO section may be played a trifle faster than the first two sections. 
Observe strictly the pedal and phrasing marks.

**Minuet in G**

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Moderato
Curious Story

Molto vivace \( \text{d} = 184 \)

Stephen Heller
(1815-1888)

W. M. Co. 6825
Preparatory Exercises

No. 1

No. 2

No. 3

Hymn to the Sun
from the Opera "The Golden Cockerel"

Rimsky-Korsakov
arr. by J. T.

Moderato M.M. \( \frac{j}{4} = 100 \)

dim. poco a poco

molto rit.

W. M. Co. 5825
Andantino M. M. \( \frac{\text{d}}{} = 78 \)

\[ \text{M. A.} \]

\[ \text{M. F.} \]

\[ \text{F. A.} \]

\[ \text{A. A.} \]

\[ \text{A. A.} \]
The following Twenty-Four Preludes in all keys, built upon familiar pianistic patterns, may be assigned as Preparatory Studies in place of the usual Finger Drills.

Prelude No. 1

Allegro

Prelude No. 2

Allegro con brio

Prelude No. 3

Scherzino

Prelude No. 4

Moderato

W. M. Co. 8825
Prelude No. 5
Whims

Prelude No. 6
Sparks

Prelude No. 7
March Wind

Prelude No. 8
Mystery

W. M. Co. 5825
Prelude No. 14

Allegro

Arabesque

Prelude No. 15

Maestoso - March tempo

March

Prelude No. 16

Vivace

The Fountain

Prelude No. 17

Allegro animato

Scherzino

W. M. Co. 5825
Prelude No. 18
Funeral March

Funeral March tempo

Prelude No. 19
Romanza

Lento

Prelude No. 20
Arpeggi

Allegro

W. M. Co. 5825
Prelude No. 21  
_In Old Castile_

Prelude No. 22  
_Lament_

Prelude No. 23  
_Negro Dance_

Prelude No. 24  
_Orientale_

W. M. Co. 5525
Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

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has successfully completed

"JOHN THOMPSON'S THIRD GRADE BOOK"

and is eligible for promotion to

"JOHN THOMPSON'S FOURTH GRADE BOOK"

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Teacher

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Date.................................................................