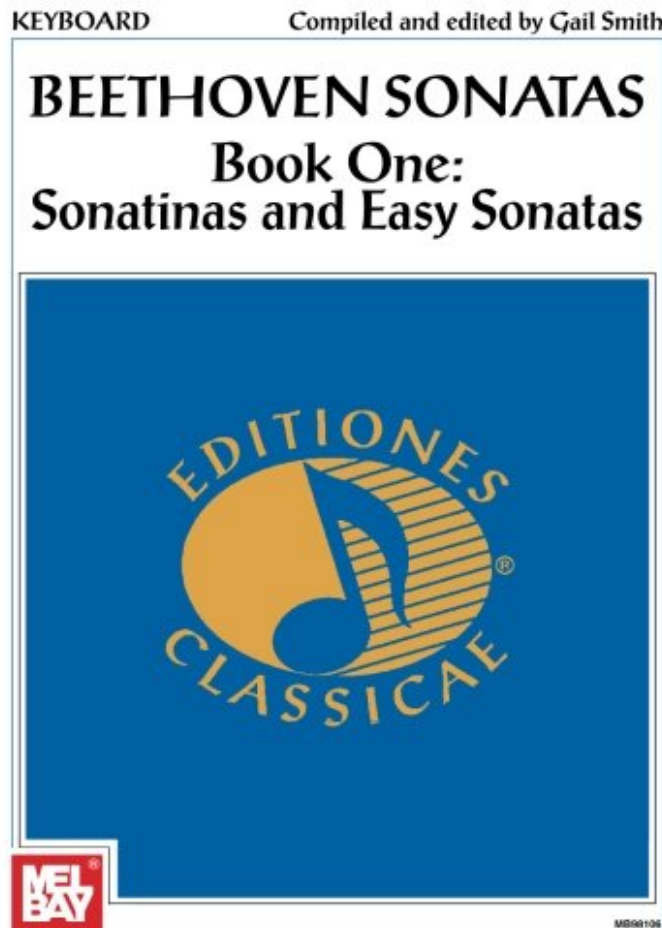


Mel Bay Creative Keyboard Presents Beethoven Sonatas: Sonatinas and Easy Sonatas

Gail Smith

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Gail Smith : Mel Bay Creative Keyboard Presents Beethoven Sonatas: Sonatinas and Easy Sonatas before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mel Bay Creative Keyboard Presents Beethoven Sonatas: Sonatinas and Easy Sonatas:

This unique series offers students and teachers a carefully sequenced Urtext edition of Beethoven's sonatas, gradually progressing in difficulty. Each book in the series features an informative biography of Beethoven, including a moving letter he wrote to his brothers and pictures of his parents, his birthplace in Bonn, his teacher Neefe, Beethoven's music room, and more. The table of contents in each book gives additional information on some of the sonatas. Book One includes eight sonatinas for early intermediate students.

About the Author Ludwig van Beethoven was born in 1770 in Bonn, Germany. He began music lessons in violin, piano, and composition with his father when he was 4 years old. In 1790 he was appointed assistant court organist in Bonn. Around 1800, Beethoven began to notice that he was becoming deaf. By 1820 his deafness had worsened to the point that he could no longer conduct his orchestra. Although completely deaf for the last seven years of his life, he continued to compose. Beethoven died in Vienna in 1827. Beethoven wrote in practically all musical forms, but is one of the greatest of all instrumental composers. His works include one opera, an oratorio, two Masses, various songs, as well as sonatas for piano and for the violin. His concertos include five for the piano and one for the violin. His nine symphonies are considered his greatest works. Gail Smith was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on January 26. Gail's father, Carl Erick Johnson, sang tenor in the church choir. Her mother, Ethel, played the piano and had Gail start piano lessons. Smith received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Florida Atlantic University. She has taught piano students from the age of 3 to 96! Her blind student, Ivan, was seen on national TV. Giving musical lecture recitals by portraying the composer's wife has been an effective way to reach audiences with the history of music. Gail has portrayed Marian MacDowell and Anna Magdalena Bach. She gives many workshops and concerts throughout the United States as well as in Germany and Japan. Smith's life has revolved around her family, church and music. She was the pianist of the famed Coral Ridge Presbyterian church for many years. She has been active in many organizations including being national Music Chairman of the National League of American Pen Women and is a former president of the Broward County branch. Ms. Smith is also a member of The Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, National Music Teachers Association, and Federation of Music Clubs. Ms. Smith's works include many piano solos, choral works, a piano trio, a composition for four pianos and numerous vocal solos. She has arranged hundreds of hymns, Indian melodies, and folk tunes from many countries. Her trademark is her piano palindromes, which can be played backwards as well as forwards and sound the same. She is the author of: Complete Church Pianist, Sunday Morning Pianist, Four Centuries of Women Composers, Celebrate the Piano Series, Hymns Made Easy, Piano Chords Made Easy, Complete Book of Modulations for the Pianist, Complete Book of Exercises for the Pianist, and Complete Improvisation, Fills Chord Progressions Book.