

**To the Teacher:** The purpose of this book is two-fold.

## **1 Extra Rhythm Practice**

The rhythm pages in the book are to serve as additional practice for the student - to supplement whatever rhythm method the teacher is using. This is not a comprehensive rhythm method. It provides extra practice at a basic level only. As a piano teacher myself I have used many different rhythm methods with my students. I found them all beneficial but I always wished for more practice. This book provides that practice. The teacher can decide to skip pages depending on the student's progress and need for reinforcement.

## **2. Keeping a Steady Beat**

The most important rhythmic skill is to maintain a steady beat throughout an entire piece. Many students are able to show a good understanding of each rhythmic element but are weak in maintaining a steady pulse for the duration of the piece.

Therefore, an important feature of this book is to accompany the student with a metronome. For this purpose we introduce **Max the Metronome** who is our conductor. The metronome should be used at the lesson as the student works through the exercises. This teaches the student to maintain momentum and develops the skill of working with the metronome.

Each Chapter ends with a 'timed' test page to record the student's ability to maintain a steady pulse for the whole page. The test should be conducted at three different speeds. It is up to the teacher to choose appropriate speeds for the particular student.

The results of the student's tests are recorded at the end of the book onto the "**Rhythm Rally**" page for each speed in each chapter. This page is designed to motivate the student by logging progress and can be posted in the studio if desired.