

2ND EDITION

TECHNIQUE & ARTISTRY BOOK

LEVEL

2B

# PIANO

*Adventures*® by Nancy and Randall Faber  
with Victoria McArthur

THE BASIC PIANO METHOD

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Note: All exercises and pieces are by  
Nancy and Randall Faber unless otherwise noted.

**FABER**  
PIANO ADVENTURES®

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# TECHNIQUE SECRETS

The student should learn these four *Level 2B* “technique secrets” gradually.  
The secrets are referenced one by one in the *Piano Adventures® Lesson Book*.  
(Correlating pages are shown at the bottom of the page.)

The teacher should demonstrate each “technique secret” as it is introduced.

## Four Technique Secrets

### 1. The first secret is **ARM WEIGHT**.

#### Exercise: Heavy Arms

- Sit tall. Let your arms hang completely relaxed at your sides. **Feel the weight of your arms.**
  - Keeping the natural curve of your hands, **s-l-o-w-l-y** lift your “heavy arms.”
  - When your arms reach the height of the keyboard, let them **drop completely relaxed** into your lap.
- Repeat 2 more times.

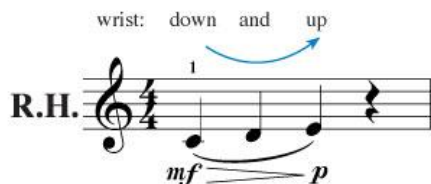


### 2. The second secret is a **SLUR GESTURE**.

#### Exercise: Painter's Brush Stroke

A pianist can play several notes with a single motion.  
This smooth wrist motion is called a *slur gesture*.  
As you play, imagine the smooth brush stroke of a painter.  
**Your wrist will rise slightly through the slur.**

- Play this **R.H. slur gesture** in HIGHER octaves.



- Play the **L.H. slur gesture** in LOWER octaves.

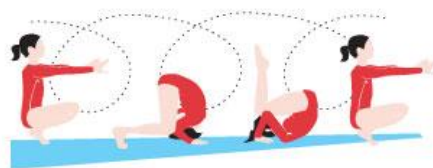




### Technique Secret: slur gesture

Warm-up with *Painter's Brush Stroke* (p. 2).

- Play each slur with one gesture (motion), rather than as 3 separate notes.
- Your wrist will rise *slightly* with each slur. The last note of the slur should be very light.



## Forward Somersaults

(for R.H. alone)

**Lively**

pattern

Down and up, *shift*, down and up, *shift*

4 etc.

Continue the pattern on B and C.



## Backward Somersaults

(for L.H. alone)

**Lively**

pattern

Down and up, *shift*, down and up, *shift*

4 etc.

Continue the pattern on D and C.



**Technique Secret:**  
**arm weight**

Warm-up with *Heavy Arms* (p. 2).



**Scale Tips**

- Listen for an even tone as each hand plays the **G scale**.
- Don't let the thumb "bump" as it *crosses under* finger 3.

## Ice Hockey

Ferdinand Beyer  
(Op. 101, *Tonleiter in G*)  
original form

**Steadily**

*f* Skating up the ice.

Hit the puck to the forward.

Skating down the ice.

Try again.

Pass the puck to the forward.

He hits!

Successful goal!

Optional: Practice *Ice Hockey* at these 3 tempos.

\_\_\_\_ ♩ = 72 *Andante*    \_\_\_\_ ♩ = 88 *Moderato*    \_\_\_\_ ♩ = 104-112 *Allegro*

# A R T I S T R Y M A G I C

A piano rag is a piece with a **steady left hand** and a catchy, "ragged" melody for the right hand.

For good **BALANCE**, play the L.H. accompaniment softer than the R.H. melody.



## Rip Roarin' Rag

N. and R. Faber

Fun, with zip

Sheet music for "Rip Roarin' Rag" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *f* (forte) and includes lyrics.

Lyrics: I've got a tune, so fill up the room, 'cause I want to play "Rip Roarin' Rag"! People talk in 'bout a new craze, it's got a name that's grand. Rag-time's here, it's

Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 are indicated. Fingerings (1-5) and breath marks are shown. The piece includes a section labeled (prepare R.H.) and a section labeled *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)

Teacher Duet sheet music for "Rip Roarin' Rag". The piece is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and includes lyrics.

Lyrics: it's got a name that's grand. Rag-time's here, it's

Measure numbers 4, 5, 9, 13 are indicated. Fingerings (1-5) and breath marks are shown. The piece includes a section labeled *mf* (mezzo-forte).





- ## Pedal Magic
- (for R.H. alone)

Exercise 5 consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures, each featuring a triplet of eighth notes. The first measure starts on G4, the second on A4, the third on B4, and the fourth on C5. Below the first measure, the instruction "Say: 'Up - down, move hand, f'" is written, with a forte 'f' dynamic marking. Below the subsequent three measures, the instruction "Up - down, move hand, ^" is written, with an accent (^) marking. The second staff is marked with a box containing the number "5" in the top left corner. It also features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures, each with a triplet of eighth notes starting on G4, A4, B4, and C5 respectively. Below each of these four measures, the instruction "Up - down, move hand, ^" is written, with an accent (^) marking.

## Fancy Footwork

(for L.H. alone)

The second system of the musical score for 'The Little Boat' is shown. It begins with a square box containing the number '4', indicating the fourth measure. The notation continues on a single staff with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The first measure of this system is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The notes are: a half note G2 (labeled '5'), a quarter note A2 (labeled '1'), a quarter note B2 (labeled '4'), and a half note C3 (labeled '3'). The notes are beamed together in pairs. The second system of the score ends with a double bar line.