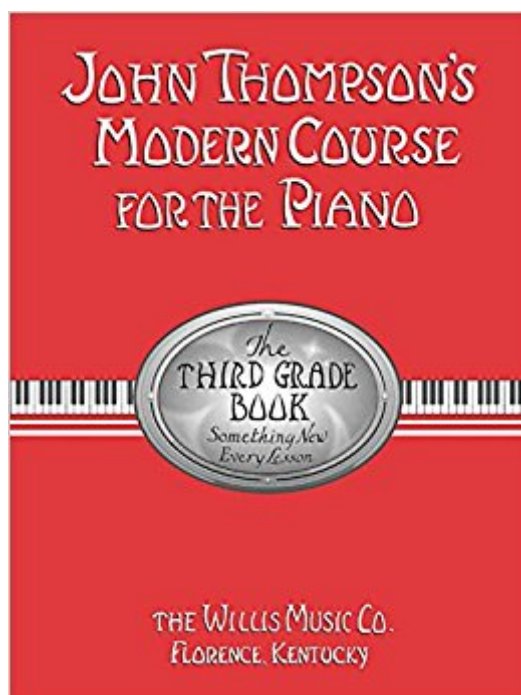


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# John Thompson's Modern Course For The Piano - 3rd Grade



## Synopsis

(Willis). The Modern Course series provides a clear and complete foundation in the study of the piano that enables the student to think and feel musically. It may be preceded by the Teaching Little Fingers to Play series. Based on the fundamentals of interpretation: form, mood and style. Carries on without interruption the musicianship developed in Book 2.

## Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 77 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,572 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Techniques #126 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Piano #137 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Instrumentation > Piano

## Customer Reviews

I am 67 years old, and have spent a few years learning to play the piano. Learning comes slow to those of us who have so many old habits that now prove obstacles to new learning & must be revised to accommodate this learning. I teased my wonderfully patient teacher by chiding her for promoting me from kindergarten to third grade after only six years of study & practice. She appropriately told me I was rapidly progressing into piano. The book is very well presented and explains things like style, mood, interpretation, and form. The selections are all fun after appropriate practice and some helpful additional instruction. (One would likely be lost with this book not knowing a host of other technical details about printed music.) Unfortunately the author only mentions the more technique-oriented and/or technical challenges one faces at this time in one's study. His mention is only a paragraph aimed at selling another of his books on that topic. It is a mystery only booksellers can answer why he needed another book to contain his subject and mine instead of putting it all into one collection. A glimpse at the back cover illustrates the depths of this challenge: the author there offers another seven "third grade" music books. The book is also "modern" in the

quaintly academic sense that it contains music from what the academics call the modern centuries (C16-C20); according to their preferred doctrines we now live in the "post modern" era which began sometime in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, the precise moment of its birth as yet unsettled. That is not necessarily wrong; we all need orientation from the past. But it is important also to not get lost in the past.

John Thompson is not very popular any more, and I don't use Teaching Little Fingers to play, but was very pleasantly surprised when I bought this for my children who have recently started piano lessons. I bought it partly out of nostalgia, if truth be told, and I'd had my son do Teaching Little Fingers to play along with Robert Pace & Piano Discoveries. My chief complaint with this book is the flagrant overuse of finger numbers, which can be rectified by blacking most of them out. It does move quickly, but there is a lot of emphasis on developing musicality, and I can see why my childhood piano teacher used this (she was very strong on developing good musicianship and musicality). Of course, it was also very popular back then, but I can see why she chose this book one over the ones I used for later levels. My kids are older beginners (11 & 13) but I think any student that is able to move quickly could handle the pace since I started this book when I was 8.

I am a piano teacher and a huge fan of the Thompson books. I learned out of them, and have all my students learn from them because they include so much really great classical music. I hate that the early books include finger numbers above every note, so I cross them out, but by the Second Grade and this 3rd Grade book, the included fingering notations are an important part of the editing. These pieces challenge the students, but also become some of their favorite pieces to play. They really require the students to play more expressively, including dynamics, phrasing, and other accents, etc. Great book!

Bought this for a piano student. I played from this book when I was a kid. Fun to hear old pieces.

Many great tunes but this series is for the student with above average musical abilities as it progresses rapidly. At about the Grade 4-5 level.

Great. I am familiar with it and love the compositions. So do the students. Great. I am familiar with it and love the compositions. So do the students.

I bought this for teaching, and I was very pleased to own the digital edition instead of lugging around print books to lessons.

The addition of the cd for this book made it great for me to hear how the piece is suppose to sound before I play it. I was just beginning to start this book in the late sixties when I had to end lessons due to financial hardships. I am now picking up where I left off and the cd made it possible to self teach myself. Now that we're in the new times of using cd's for music teaching aids this book became a no-brainer. For some reason the third grade book is the only one offering a cd in the course. I want to encourage the publishers to make cd's for the rest of the series (grades four and five).

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