

The Daily Tar Heel

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Jazz and Ear Piano Lessons

By "Wink" Locklair

Adolescence, the so-called "awkward age," is approached with genuine alarm and apprehension by many youngsters because it is usually during this period that, among other things, parents begin negotiations for a "torture process" commonly known as "lessons on the piano."

It is true, unfortunately, that in a number of cases, the lessons turn out to be "torure processes" for these same well-meaning parents! Listening to little John or Jane labor in the fields of Schumann's "Happy Farmer" or flat three notes of a C-major scale hour upon hour, is indeed often a burden which the home folks look upon wistfully as a formidable, but necessary evil.

In a new book by Dr. William S. Newman, Associate Professor of Music and Chairman of Instruction in Piano in the University of North Carolina, students of the keyboard and their parents, as well as teachers and interested laymen, will find answers to many perplexing problems about this much used and abused instrument.

The slender, attractive volume, published by Harper Brothers, New York, and in Britain by Cassells, is called "The Pianist's Problems," and includes a number of clever illustrations by John V. Allcott, Chairman of the Art Department in the University here. The introduction was written by the well-known concert pianist, Arthur Loesser.

The book is a modern, realistic approach to efficient practicing and performing and was inspired by a recent lecture-recital tour Dr. Newman made of colleges and universities in the Midwest. "During the tour I was much impressed by the eager interest in everything that was practical and up-to-date about piano playing," he says. "So I decided to put down in writing a straight-forward account of what I thought every pianist ought to know."

Readers of Dr. Newman's book will be surprised to see that he allows and even encourages several practices which for a number of years were considered undesirable, if not altogether taboo. For example, he thinks the student can profit from playing by ear. "In the first place there are marked correlations between this ability and the ability to memorize. Almost invariably, the student who cannot play by ear memorizes slowly and insecurely," Dr. Newman remarked.

Anything and everything that appeals to the student and that can be culled from memory should be played by ear. This is most likely to include folk-type music, familiar themes from standard classics, and jazz. "Do not disavow the kind of balanced diet that includes jazz, which stands as one important part of our American culture," Dr. Newman suggested. "Day in and day out the contention that jazz players cannot adapt themselves to serious concert music is disapproved."

In the section devoted to technique, Dr. Newman points out that in recent years numerous teachers and performers have gone "overboard" in the use of exercises. "They glorify the exercise to the point where it is done as a matter of course and for its own sake, quite apart from the goal it should prepare," the author says.

He maintains that the practice of the famous Carl Czerny studies leads mainly to the perfection of that particular study rather than to Beethoven or Chopin or composers in general. "The way to learn Beethoven is, first of all, to practice Beethoven. I will say, however, that there are times when a certain study will answer a special need very well. Then that study should be practiced, but only as needed and not on general principle."

Regarding practice in general, Dr. Newman warns that the pianist who makes mistakes in his practice learns those mistakes whether he means to or not. "For every mistake that has once been an accident the pupil will learn in spite of himself, and that mistake can be counted on with certainty to appear each time the piece he has learned is played." The cure for this habit takes time and effort, but the important thing is to catch yourself before you make the mistake.

One of the most entertaining sections of the book is called "The Worst Bogy of Them All—Stage Fright." "Nearly everybody gets stage fright," Dr. Newman states, "and you might as well be realistic about it. The pianist who tries to avoid the thought beforehand is in for a rude awakening. I knew a fine young lady pianist who sought to divert her mind from the fear of playing before an audience by reading Shakespeare just before each concert. The result was that she usually walked on the stage with excellent composure and almost collapsed in the first few minutes as the reality of the situation forced itself upon her!"

Writing about or performing at the piano is nothing new for Dr. Newman. He is now at work on a history of the sonata idea, and in March he will begin a tour of New York and New England, playing recitals and giving lectures at the Brooklyn Museum, Boston, the University of Maine, Dartmouth College, and in other cities. A detailed article about the American composer, Arthur Shepherd, has just been completed by Dr. Newman and is scheduled to appear in the next issue of The Musical Quarterly.

In his extensive travels he has conducted research in many of the world's leading libraries. His private library contains one of the world's most comprehensive and representative collections of sonatas—more than 3000—as well as a rounded collection of landmarks in music history.

The actual writing of "The Pianist's Problems" was one of the most satisfying tasks that I can recall undertaking," Dr. Newman said. "There is a satisfaction in getting down to earth, in probing problems of everyday concern to student and teacher." (The book was originally called "Are You Wasting Time at the Piano.")

New China Policy



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CPU Roundtable

Far Eastern Dilemma

By Edlyn W. Freerks

For the past several months there has been a growing controversy in Washington and elsewhere in the country over our Far Eastern policy, or lack of it. Very few Americans are pleased with the tremendous successes of the Chinese Communists during the past two years, but opinion is sharply divided on whether or not a more intelligent policy by our State Department could have stopped or at least slowed down these Communist gains.

President Truman, Secretary Acheson, and their supporters claim that no amount of additional American aid could have enabled Chiang Kai-shek to defend his regime, because it has been rapidly losing popular support among the Chinese people. Critics of the Administration, led by Senator Knowland of California and other Republican senators, claim that this country should have been more positive in its support of the Nationalists, for, with all their faults, they are clearly the "lesser of two evils." Furthermore, these critics warn that the Communists, now that they control nearly all of the Chinese mainland, are likely to expand soon onto the offshore islands of Hainan, Formosa, and then to other parts of Southeastern Asia.

The entire controversy boils down at present to two specific issues with which this country is now faced. The first is, should we give military and/or naval aid to the Nationalists on Formosa; if so, how much. The other issue involves the recognition of Mao Tse-tung's Communist government as the legal one of China, a step which Britain, India and other nations have already taken. Britain's action was not surprising to most ob-

servers in view of her large investments in China. American recognition may be delayed for a few months, largely because of the blundering, unjust actions by the Communists against Angus Ward and other Americans. Assuming, however, that most of the major nations of the world soon recognize the Red regime, the question of replacement of Nationalists by Communists as representatives to the United Nations will have to be resolved. In the Security Council the line-up would then be 8 to 3 on most important issues after the Communists represent China. The Big Five members who have the veto power will be split 3 to 2 instead of 4 to 1.

In following Secretary Acheson's advice and against that of several men in the Defense Department President Truman has taken the position that even if the Communists

succeed in occupying Formosa we shall still be able to protect our interests in the Western Pacific. Furthermore, limited intervention at the start could possibly snowball into becoming involved in a major war. This policy may be somewhat modified after our roving ambassador, Dr. Phillip Jessup returns from his current trip in this part of the world.

Meanwhile, Republicans are constantly criticizing this non-intervention. Some say that in view of this "failure" of American Far Eastern policy, they will attempt to cut drastically our aid to Western Europe. Thus, they propose intervention in one part of the world and isolation in another. The Administration, on the other hand, proposes intervention to "contain Communism" where there is a reasonably good chance to do so.

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- HORIZONTAL**
1. feign
5. Mohammedan prince
8. likely
12. gentle breeze
13. recent
14. game of chance
15. persevere
17. scrutinizes
19. serf
20. godly persons
21. attitudes
23. glisten
24. strikes
25. rigid
26. mother
28. donkey
29. prophets
30. torrid
31. mother of Titans
32. fixed gaze
33. caution
34. declare
35. walking sticks
36. pointed weapons
38. inland body of water
39. vigilant
40. Irishmen (colloq.)
- 43. prefix
44. equal
46. son of Jacob
47. printer's measure
48. slight depression
49. epochs
VERTICAL
1. undermine
2. tint
3. stems
4. lumps
5. otherwise
6. small rug
7. neuter pronoun
8. mends
9. straighten
10. bard
11. throw
16. those in power
18. part of bowling green
20. distribute
21. one that eats: comb. form
22. river in France
23. cubic metric unit
25. places
26. English author
27. sweetsop
29. began
30. more convenient
32. asterisk
33. taper
34. blinds
35. Massachusetts caps
36. identical
37. method
38. gasp
40. writing implement
41. feminine name
42. sister (colloq.)
45. Odin's brother

Answer to yesterday's puzzle.

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Average time of solution: 22 minutes. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON—A strange political paradox took place recently without any political fanfare. At almost the same time President Truman was repeating his demand for Congress to pass the Brannan farm plan, he quietly signed a law repealing his demand for Congress to pass the Brannan Plan which he introduced in the House of Representatives in 1949. The Brannan Plan which he introduced in the House of Representatives in 1949—the same Republicans who are now storming against the Brannan Plan.

The issue involved in this amazing mixup is the controversial production-payment plan supposed to keep farm prices high yet allow consumer prices to drop. The idea is to send farm surpluses to market instead of government warehouses, thereby giving housewives the benefit of resulting declines in prices. Then Uncle Sam would pay the farmer the difference between the official support price and the market price.

This idea has been hailed by the Democrats as the magic formula for farm prosperity and at no extra cost to consumers. The Republicans, on the other hand, have illustrated their opinion of the formula in a cartoon labeled "Brannan Plan," showing a cow giving milk at both ends.

But what both sides seem to have overlooked is that this double-ended cow was a creation of the Republicans. The same plan that the Republicans are now ridiculing was made a part of the Hope-Aiken Farm Bill, and passed by the GOP 80th Congress.

The Hope-Aiken Act would have become law on January 1, except for the paradoxical fact that the Democrats repealed it. In so doing, they repealed the core of the Brannan Plan that they are now clamoring for.

Four months before the Brannan Plan was ever born, Republican Sen. George Aiken of Vermont defended the production-payment idea before a farm meeting at St. Paul, Minn. Describing the Hope-Aiken Act, Aiken declared: "Another important provision in the new act is that which permits the Secretary (of Agriculture) to support prices through payments as well as loans and purchases."

"This means that the Secretary could authorize the sale of a commodity in the open market and the support price," Aiken continued. "One of the advantages, he suggested, would be to give the consumers the benefit of large crops and lower prices."

This speech was delivered Dec. 14, 1948. At that time, the production-payment plan had already been approved by the GOP Congress. And sitting behind Aiken on the Speakers' Platform was none other than Secretary of Agriculture Charlie Brannan.

It wasn't until April 7, 1949, however, that Brannan came out with almost the same idea. Immediately the Republicans derided the production-payment idea which they, themselves, had already voted into law.

But the most amazing episode in this farce came last year. The Democrats put up a stiff fight to try out the production-payment idea on three commodities, but the Republicans summoned enough voting strength to defeat them. Yet all the time they were battling over three commodities, the production-payment plan was already on the law books—not just for three commodities, but for whatever commodities the Secretary of Agriculture chose.

Finally, the Democrats, still crying for production payments, repealed the Hope-Aiken Act containing production payments. The President calmly signed the repealer, then came back to Congress and demanded enactment of the Brannan Plan, including—most important of all—the production payments which he had just repealed!

White-haired octogenarian Rep. Adolph Sabath of Illinois, who seems to grow younger with the years, informed his friend, President Truman, that he was giving him a belated Christmas present—two bottles of pre-prohibition Bourbon.

"I've been saving it a long time," reported Sabath. "It's strictly for medicinal purposes, of course, in case you catch a cold or get bitten by Republicans."

"Their bark is stronger than their bite," grinned Truman, "but the whiskey will be good to keep on hand, just in case. Bring it along the next time you come to see me."

"Mr. President, do you think it would look right for me to be seen smuggling two bottles into the White House?" asked the Illinois Democrat, in a scolding voice. "Maybe I better send them over to messenger."

"Oh, no you won't," retorted the President. "I want you to be right here to help me sample this liquid dynamite before we put it away in the medicine cabinet. How do I know it won't poison people?"

"You don't," replied Sabath. "But you're not making a guinea pig out of me. Try it out on a Republican."

IRON CURTAIN CAPSULES

EASTERN GERMANY—150,000 slave laborers are at work in the Saxon uranium mines. More than 68,000 Germans who escaped from the Russian zone last year ended up in the Ulster Bohlgang Refugee Camp in the West. Among them were 372 members of the East Zone Volks Police.

AUSTRIA—Under Russian management, production at the Zistersdorf Oil Fields has dropped 20 per cent in recent months.

BULGARIA—Nineteen Bulgarians, among them members of the Communist Party, will go on trial for daring to appear as defense witnesses in the infamous Kostov treason trial.

So Little Time

"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." This quotation from the letter of the apostle James inspired a certain student here to draw a parallel between mankind and the "strange fish that move silently at the bottom of the dark and dangerous sea, limited and impeded by their own atmosphere, and doomed to live by the rain of travel-twisted fragments from above." However, he added to the picture the statement that "even the deep-sea fish carry their own lights."

This is a striking picture to anyone who has felt the need for more and better education among the exponents of Christianity, who are confronted with defending Religion against the greatest and most wide-spread enemies it has ever had to face. The apostle Peter wrote in his first letter, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man who calls you to account for the hope that is in you." It is a sad truth that too many of our Church leaders and Church workers would be easily bested in intelligent debate with materialists, agnostics, Kremlinites, and non-Church-goers in general who have had a college or university education. Christianity in too many cases is not intellectually respectable.

The necessity of providing Christian higher education, and of producing higher educated Christians is not only an important need, but a desperate one. A half-century of unprecedented slaughter, cruelty, suppression, and oppression, and actual slavery among peoples who have had both Christianity and education—in separate slavery among peoples who have had both Christianity and education—in separate compartments—has shown that education without Christianity is a misguiding force, and that Christianity without education robs itself of the opportunity to affect greater numbers of people effectively. We must learn to sharpen our presentation of Christianity: though we must wait for the Holy Spirit to work upon the minds of our hearers, we dare not only wait. We not only have to do today's job, but unfortunately, we are having to do yesterday's job. The time for action has long since been due, and we can no longer wait to correct the conditions which are snowballing our world into chaos. The time is now, and each minute precious time is stealing our only opportunity. The "now" of each moment as it passes is mocking our lethargy, for tomorrow we may not be here, or the next day—for upon it may come such a dawn as will chill our self-righteous blood into the icy water that seeks its level under the mountains of utter despair.

There is so much to be done! Our public schools have been denied the right to teach religion, but our colleges and universities may still enjoy the freedom implicit in American democracy: it is on the level of higher education that the basic answer to our problems must be sought. The "now" of our fleeting moment as students in college is thus not only an invaluable opportunity, it is a challenge also. As Christians, as students, and as citizens of our nation and our world, it is our duty to increase our wisdom and understanding, and to truly base our wisdom and understanding on the proverb: "Reverence for the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

As future citizens and future parents, Christian higher education is our job. Our church schools need our fullest financial and spiritual support for the biggest job of all time: the actual, last-stand attempt of man to save his world. History has shown that all our wealth, economic security, arts and sciences are not enough to give us real security, or even the faintest glimmer of individual or collective peace. Psychology doesn't have the panacea, and neither does philosophy. All the ethics and moral codes of four thousand years of civilizations are inadequate, for man alone does not have the power to fulfill his ideals. Ethics without religion is nothing more than hypocrisy and pride. It is religion which we have lost—religion which, alone, can restore man to sanity, dignity, and secure peace.

Only in a rediscovery of our incomprehensibly patient God can we build individual or world peace, for man alone can never do the job: he needs an infusion of power from outside his world. That power is our long-ignored God.

As students at the University, we cannot say that we lack the opportunity for action. Thanks to the generosity stand far-sightedness of James A. Gray, distinguished alumnus and citizen of our state, we have a new and growing Department of Religion here which must command our utmost and immediate attention. Only in the sober education of our minds and hearts can win the war ahead. That war is the war against ignorance and deceit. This is no time for an attempted resurgence of fundamentalism or religious totalitarianism. Our war is against ignorance—in all its forms.

It is five minutes until twelve in history; we have five minutes left to transform midnight into noon.

—Mike McDaniel