

## THE BOOK OF EASY PIANO MAGIC

Peter Rudzik

Red Leaf Pianoworks

Peter Rudzik's *The Book of Easy Piano Magic* is an elementary continuation of his collection *The Book of Piano Magic*, released in 2016. This delightful set of 12 character pieces is a welcome addition to the Red Leaf Pianoworks publications. Suggested grade levels are included for each piece to comply with Canadian standards, which is a wonderful resource for teachers first becoming acquainted with this series. The works range from levels 1-6, though teachers may find works to be a challenge for students particularly those categorized in the early elementary levels. Though labeled 'easy,' these compositions are anything but, particularly through their highly chromatic nature. Since Rudzik often employs quirky dissonances to bring the characterful quality of each composition to life, some early elementary-level compositions in this collection may be better suited to sight-reading or quick study material for more advanced students, or repertoire selections.

Each composition from the collection features a different mythological creature, perfect for engaging the imaginations of young pianists. From the taunting pranks of the *Mischievous Imp*, to the cantabile and espressivo *Tears of a Unicorn*, there is certainly something in this collection for everyone. The collection consistently shows excellent attention to detail, with meticulous articulation and dynamic markings, practical fingering suggestions and pedal indications. Rudzik also includes a link to YouTube performances of each work in the collection, serving as an excellent resource for students and teachers looking to explore these imaginative miniatures.

*Christine Tithecott - Ontario*