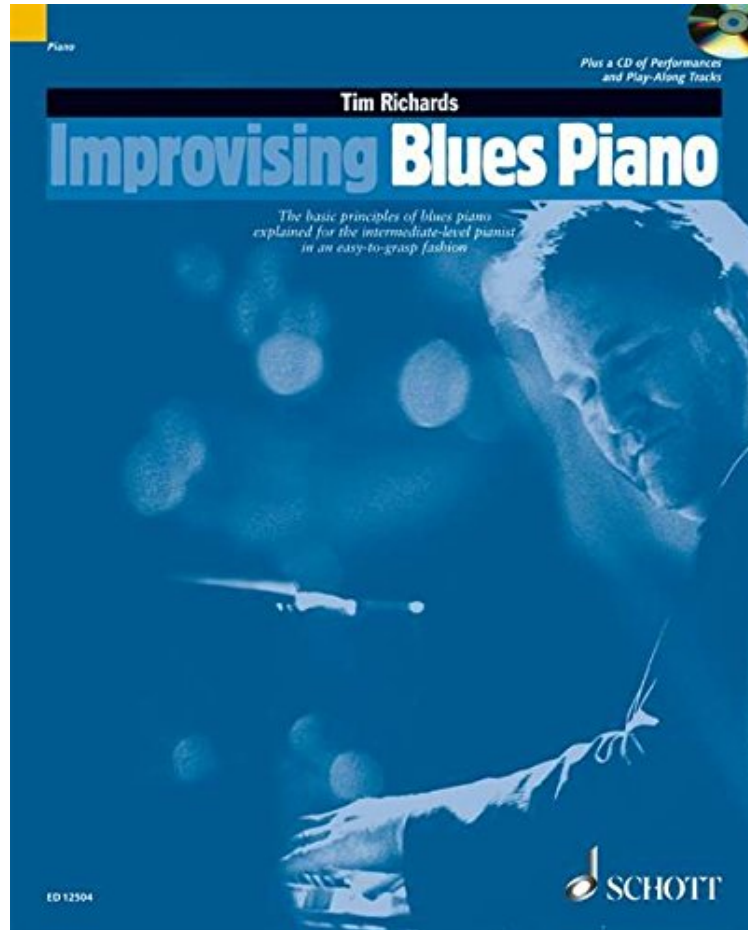


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## Improvising Blues Piano

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**From Schott Music : Improvising Blues Piano** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Improvising Blues Piano:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Extremely Satisfied By Tony I'm new piano and have always loved the blues, so had been looking for some material to get me headed in the right direction and gain some solid footing. I purchased "Blues Piano", by Mark Harrison, as some other reviewers. That book contains a wealth of information, but left me feeling overwhelmed and felt it was lacking in the fundamental guidance I needed. The examples on the CD that came with it sounded like they were MIDI and lacking, offering little inspiration. For example, it presents all the scales and tells you that you should have a goal to learn all the scales, but doesn't really provide a program for learning these. The author just seems to fail to connect with me and to present material with good basic explanations, and tie these to the exercises he provides in a straightforward way. In contrast, and getting back to the real review at hand, I feel that "Improvising Blues Piano" is giving me the step by step instruction I need, with focused exercises to help me absorb the material. As a beginner keyboardist, I feel that the exercises are challenging enough to move you forward,

yet not so challenging as to be a source of discouragement. I was extremely anxious to receive this book and was not at all disappointed with it once I was able to crack its cover and begin using it. I also feel that Tim Richards provides enough examples and alternatives, with a good measure of encouragement, to lead one toward improvisation... finding one's own unique song. I don't think you would be disappointed if you decided to purchase this book and hope it will serve you well if you decide to own it!

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding, musical, and playable method

By A. Valkin

There really are not many great methods for the blues out there, but Tim Richards is thorough and goes into the required detail to show you how each blues style works. The examples are very playable, suiting more or less an intermediate level pianist. Richards is one of the few take-away instruction teachers to be concerned about fingerings, and takes the trouble to suggest good ones. His playing instructions work very well and add a dimension that you don't often get in these method books - he has a great insight into the chords, and the notes and the way they fit the music. The breakdown of theory is very well explained, if sometimes overdone. But he never floods you with scales without showing you how to apply them - that in itself is a good thing!

Richards' choice of music is impeccable, and classic blues standards of all styles are presented from boogie, to funk, slow blues, and some jazzy numbers. And he shows you music in a number of keys so you aren't stuck to one or two and get a work out in the other keys. I found the music very playable, and well sounding, although I didn't always find the improvising instructions that intuitive. The historical background he gives is accurate and informative and the pictures of blues and jazz legends really make this book interesting. My criticism of the book is that it should have stretched up to the more advanced techniques of the blues - where the top players are, like Oscar Peterson, for example. That is its disappointment - a teacher as good as this who dedicated the time to work out a progressive and different course in blues shouldn't have stopped at the middle level. He surely should have stretched us, his interested audience up to the highest level. But this should not stop you from using this very useful and inspiring book - I Thank you sincerely Tim.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I don't normally write reviews

By EKim

This book has opened up a whole new world of piano playing for me. Grew up classically trained 15 years. Played Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin for my senior recital years ago. Just love how each piece builds on each other and you can put several of these pieces together to play a nice improvisational piece. Starts off simple and easy to play, but progresses to more difficult pieces rhythmically and with fingering, but keep practicing. Try not to skip because the pieces help build your skills to play blues. You'll sound like a pro. Bought a bunch of the other blues books from Amazon, but ended up returning them. This one is a keeper.

(Schott). The basic principles of blues piano explained for the intermediate-level pianist in an easy-to-grasp fashion.