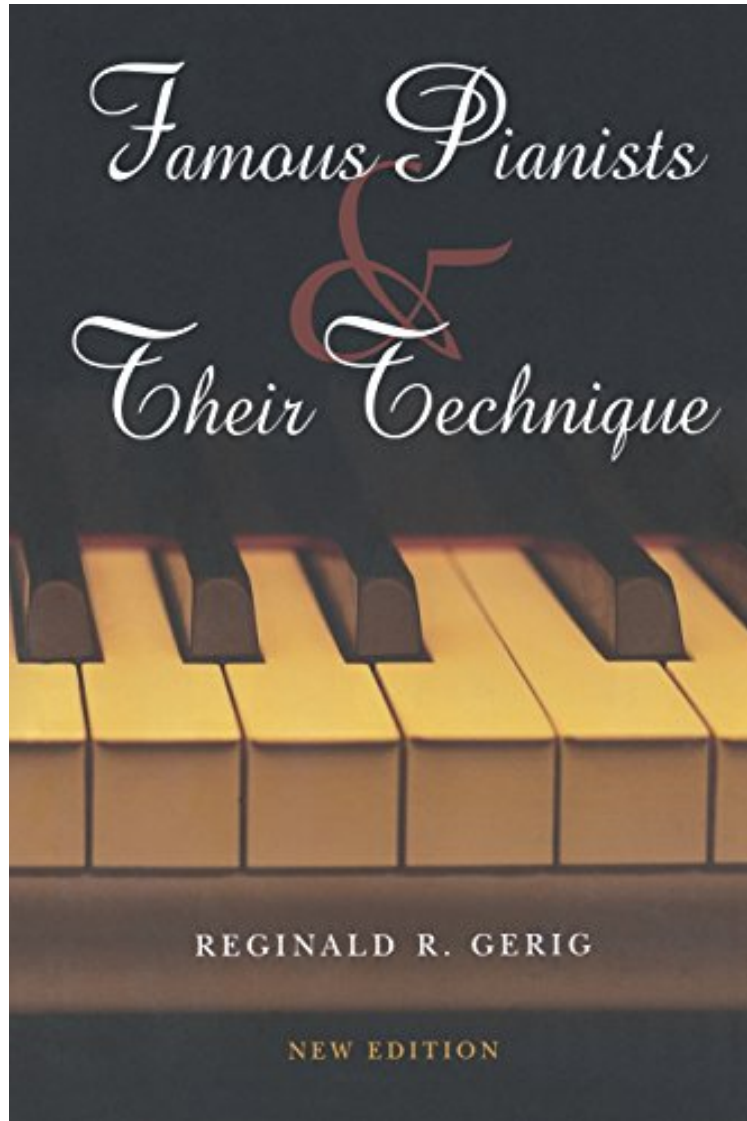


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Famous Pianists and Their Technique, New Edition

Reginald R. Gerig

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Reginald R. Gerig : Famous Pianists and Their Technique, New Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Famous Pianists and Their Technique, New Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Go to the original sources By /More a collection of anecdotal account by people who heard famous pianists play. An enjoyable and even engaging read, but it does not in itself really convey much information about the work of e.g. Deppé or Matthay, let alone Liszt or Beethoven. An interesting compendium of pedagogic history, a few nice exercises, but better to go to the original sources. I'd particularly recommend Lhevinne for his plain language and ability to make in words what is ultimately tactile and palpable within the hand,

wrist, and arm.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. all books on pedagogy are essentially useless. Now By Dan Maftei As a history of pedagogy, the book is thorough and cites heavily from the sources it discusses. To that extent, while the author's views opinions are always clear, he leaves it to the reader to critique and judge for themselves. I'd say well over half the book is direct quotations. As a pedagogical tool to improve piano playing, it is unparalleled. Charles Rosen has (rightly) said that, due to every pianist's hand being different, all books on pedagogy are essentially useless. Now, this one isn't so much a pedagogy book, as a book about pedagogy. By surveying and presenting the most important pedagogical tools in the history of piano, a student is left to their own devices to apply what they learn to their own playing. I HIGHLY recommend this to anyone with a serious interest in bettering their technique, in teaching the piano, or both. 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Absorbing, and a MUST read for students, teachers and listeners. By Job S Tadoo This book was way above my expectations. In an entertaining and absorbing manner it traces the history of piano performers, teachers and pedagogic methods from the beginnings of the pianoforte through to the 20th century. It is very well organized and has extensive coverage and a wonderful index. What struck me most was the number of detailed quotes, letters and reminiscences from various people who actually heard the playing of the greats. The development of the different styles and techniques is brought to life by this approach. I found myself reading the book in short sections and then mulling on what I had read; finding that it enhanced my playing, and opened up new possibilities for study and improvement. The book lends itself to multiple readings and becomes a reference book once completed. I would recommend this heartily not only to piano students and teachers alike, but also to music enthusiasts who wish to improve their listening skills. It is truly a classic.

Famous Pianists and Their Technique has been a standard in the field since its first publication in 1974. This widely used and acclaimed history of piano technical thought includes insights into the techniques of masters such as C.P.E. Bach, Bartk, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Clementi, Czerny, Debussy, Godowsky, Horowitz, Levinskaya, Leschetizky, the Lhevinnes, Liszt, Mozart, Prokofiev, Ravel, Rubinstein, and Schubert, among others. Called "the bible of piano technique" by Maurice Hinson, this book is a comprehensive resource for the student, teacher, and professional pianist who seek to discover the secrets of how the immortal professional pianists developed and polished their mechanical and musical technique. This expanded edition contains a foreword by Alan Walker, a new preface, and multiple new appendices.

. . . [a] classic study of keyboard technique . . . Vol. 22.2 Winter 2007 (Patricia Stroh Beethoven Journal) Called 'the bible of piano technique' by Maurice Hinson, this book is a comprehensive resource for the student, teacher and professional pianist. January 7, 2011 (The Washington Times). . . the expanded part of Gerig's book [is] so impressive that this section by itself is worth more than the price of the book. Just one of the cross-referenced ideas would be enough to spur a thesis, dissertation, or lecture-recital. . . . Scholars will not be disappointed at the array of obscure facts and hard-to-locate bibliography. Pedagogues will relish this text as an indispensable reference for their courses and daily work. Pianists will be able to constantly refer and return to their historical heritage. Gerig's book has not only withstood the test of time, but will continue to do so. (Piano Journal) This book was eye-opening when the first edition . . . appeared, and it remains so today. . . . The new edition is somewhat enhanced with the addition of a short foreword by Alan Walker and a number of appendixes that refer the reader to specific discussion areas such as 'the aesthetic imperative, mental and psychological control, isolated movements, coordinated movements, posture,' and so on. . . . Recommended. . . . (Choice) For both amateurs and professionals, Professor Gerig's book is entertaining and informative reading. Serious students of the instrument should place a high priority on owning this revision and reading it from cover to cover. From Mr. Gerig's enlightening narrative we learn as much about the lives of legendary pianists and pedagogues, their performing, and their teaching as we do about piano technique. Lastly, the paperback cover keeps the cost of the volume reasonable. Vol. 25.1 Winter/Spring 2009 (Reid Alexander University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) There is no book like [Famous Pianists and Their Technique] in the English or any other language; it covers the gamut of technical development from Diruta or John Cage. Every important pedagogue is discussed in detail so it is easy to understand their unique contribution to the development of piano technique. (Maurice Hinson Senior Professor of Piano, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) Professor Gerig's amassing in one volume of such a gigantic overview of various schools and approaches to piano technique is awesome. His book has value not only for the scholar as an extremely fascinating historical tracing of various major performers, composers, and pedagogues, but an equally vital use as a reference work for the performer involved in the art of playing the piano. (Joseph Banowetz Professor of Piano, University of North Texas) From the Publisher "There is no book like [Famous Pianists and Their Technique] in the English or any other language; it covers the gamut of technical development from Diruta or John Cage. Every important pedagogue is discussed in detail so it is easy to understand their unique contribution to the development of piano technique." -- Maurice Hinson, Senior Professor of Piano, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary "Professor Gerig's amassing in one volume of such a gigantic overview of various schools and approaches to piano technique is awesome. His book has value not only for the scholar as an extremely fascinating historical tracing of various major performers, composers, and pedagogues, but an equally vital

use as a reference work for the performer involved in the art of playing the piano." --Joseph Banowetz, Professor of Piano, University of North Texas