

DANCING *on the* KEYS

10 Early Intermediate Piano Solos in Dance Styles

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UK Exam Grade 2

BOOK
1

As a composer, pianist, teacher and clinician, I have learned during my travels that arts such as music and dance are languages that know no barriers or boundaries from state to state or country to country. When I was in Japan, I had the joy of hearing teachers and students play my music with great sensitivity and understanding. At one lovely party that was held in my honor, two teachers played my duet, *Polka Party*, from *Dances for Two*, Book 2. As they played, I grabbed a partner and taught her how to dance the polka right on the spot! Soon, the whole room was filled with dancing couples! What a joyous experience it was to see about 50 Japanese teachers dancing to a Polish-inspired polka, written by an American composer who only knew about five words in Japanese and none in Polish! But the language of music and dance was universal for all of us!

With *Dancing on the Keys*, Book 1, I hope that students and teachers will experience similarly the international language of music and inspire those around them to get up and dance! To these newly composed pieces, I have added a revised version of *Tap Time*, one of my first published works. I have updated the jazzy rhythms, changed a few harmonies and added an optional tapping part. In addition, several pieces have optional percussion parts indicated for more rhythmic fun!

With the advent of television shows like *Dancing with the Stars*, the joy of dancing has reached more people than in any other time in history. It is my hope that with these pieces, students and teachers will feel the rhythmic energy of the music as they literally—and figuratively—dance on the keys!

Catherine Rollin

Contents

Conga, Conga, Conga	4	Mediterranean Dance	18
Island Rumba	10	Rock and Roll Slow Dance	14
Jester's Gigue, The	8	Spicy Salsa	16
Make Mine Cha-Cha-Cha!	21	Tantalizing Tango	2
Mazurka for Chopin	12	Tap Time Encore	6



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ISBN-10: 0-7390-4832-5

ISBN-13: 978-0-7390-4832-0