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## Ear Training with Intervals

POSTED BY LEIASLESSONS IN PIANO, TEACHING

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Most piano teachers have been taught extremely well how to read and play music ... but very few of us feel confident playing by ear, or teaching students how to play by ear. A lot of "hobby" students have signed up for lessons because they are hoping they are going to learn this very skill ... and are sorely disappointed when, after years of lessons, they are still unable to pick out songs by ear.

I've been incorporating ear training into my lessons whenever I can, but am

always looking for more ideas for students. Most of us teach our students to

recognise and play intervals, and we use the "same old" tried and true interval

recognition songs... but guess what? Most children in this day and age have

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never heard "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" or the theme from "Love Story" ... so how are our interval recognition tricks going to help them? Whenever I can come up with an interval that relates to the latest Taylor Swift or One Republic song I use it with my students, but with all the out-of-lesson work that we teachers do, it can be hard to find time to go through the Top 40 songs and find intervals that our students can really understand and remember.

Enter <u>EasyEarTraining.Com</u>. I discovered this site a few months ago when I was searching for ear training ideas to use with students. Recently I had a look at their latest e-publication, "Learning Intervals," and **my favorite part was the interval reference songs that incorporate useful references from pop music**. They've done all the work for us, and you can press the handy play button and listen to the music online. I'll definitely be using this as a teaching resource!

Other things I love about the book:

- Easy guide to using **solfège** (as a singer I learned and love to use solfège, but a lot of piano teachers don't use it. It's a great way to learn intervals, though!)

- A great discussion about **consonance and disonance**. I find this a very difficult topic to teach to my students, especially older beginners, and I look forward to using the tips in this guide!

If you want to check out their book, use <u>THIS LINK</u> for a 20% discount (thank you Christopher!)

This guide is not specifically intended for use with teachers in their studios, but I think it will be very useful for me – and for those wanting to further their ear training skills at home.

Disclaimer: This is <u>not</u> a paid review and all opinions stated here are my own.





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