

FOREWORD

The thrill of playing and performing favorite melodies of classical repertoire is found in this exciting collection of dynamic duets. Students can explore the symphonies of Beethoven and Schubert, the Baroque elegance of Bach and Handel, the engaging and picturesque works of Dukas and Herbert, the unforgettable melodies of Tchaikovsky, and many other pieces as well. Together, the student duet performers can enjoy the richness of texture and the broad musicality that these pieces offer to the young performing team. Duet performances bring out a special musical awareness in students: an attention to tempo and expression that shapes a performance into a true shared experience. Creating a thoughtful interplay of melody, accompaniment and dynamics will broaden each student's musical development as well as add an exciting and enjoyable dimension to performing. From the first notes played to the final chords struck, the music of *Essential Duets* promises to engage students, teachers and audiences alike.