(Early Elementary)

Schaum

Masters of Technic

Primer Level

Technic etudes with emphasis on melody

Compiled, edited and arranged by Jeff Schaum and Wesley Schaum

FOREWORD

Numerous concert pianists and teachers were famous for their insights and development of successful piano technic, particularly during the 1800's. This series of books gives students an exposure to the rich variety of this technic heritage along with the benefits.

Primer Level contains 39 short exercises by 12 different master technic composers. Emphasis is placed on the ***melodic aspect of technic*** for greater student appeal. The exercises are purposely condensed, modified or transposed to achieve equal hand development.

Hand positions are purposely varied to avoid rigid five-finger position habits. Accidentals and different key signatures give students experience in various hand positions with black keys. Circles are placed around important finger numbers to show different hand positions.

The exercises are arranged in order of increasing difficulty. While becoming more challenging, the exercises complement the progress in a method book at the same level.

See the Composer Sources and Index on page 24

PRACTICE SUGGESTIONS

To derive the most benefit, attention should be given to how the exercises are practiced. ***Careful listening*** is necessary in order to hear a good balance between the accompaniment and the melody. The accompaniment should not be too loud. It is also important to listen for ***steady and accurate rhythm***, and to make sure each finger plays equally loud, especially the 4th and 5th fingers.

Each exercise should be practiced four or five times daily, starting at a slow tempo and gradually increasing the speed as proficiency improves. Several previously learned exercises should be reviewed each week as part of regular practice.

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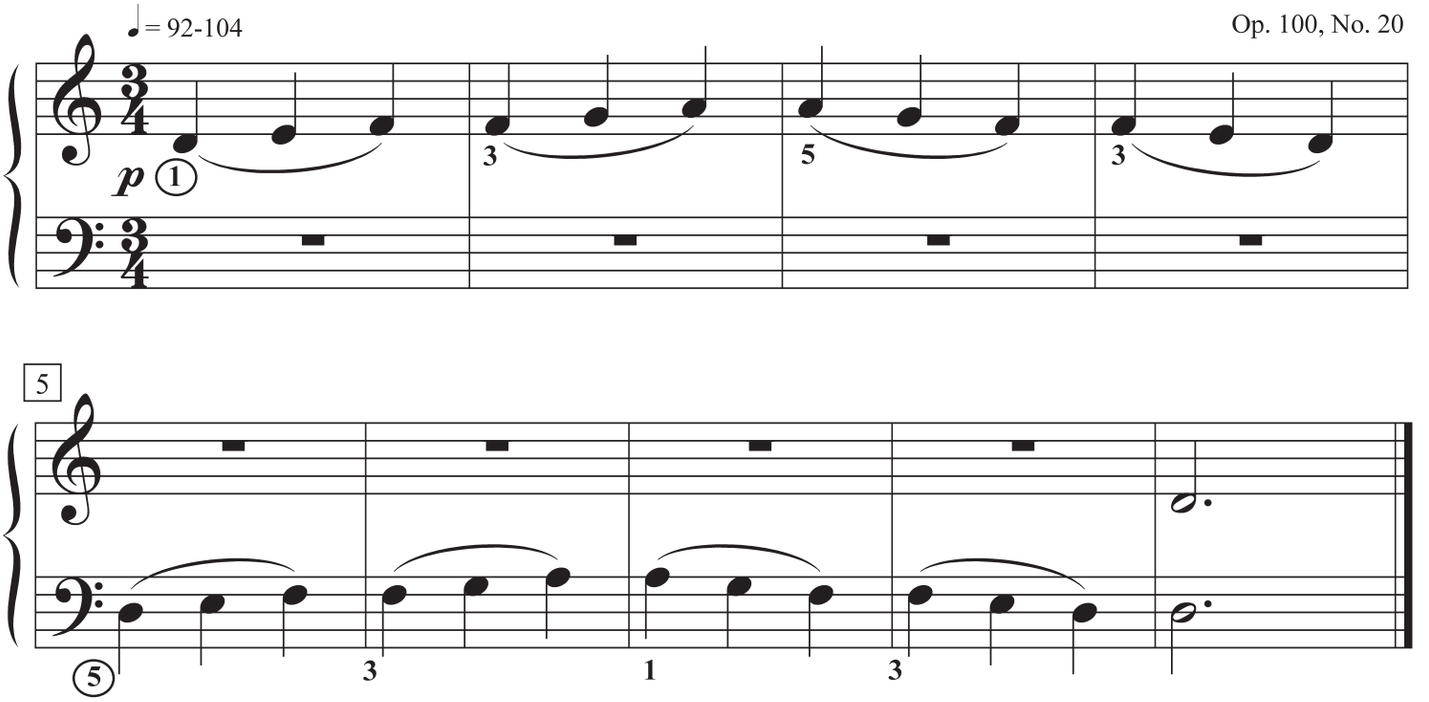
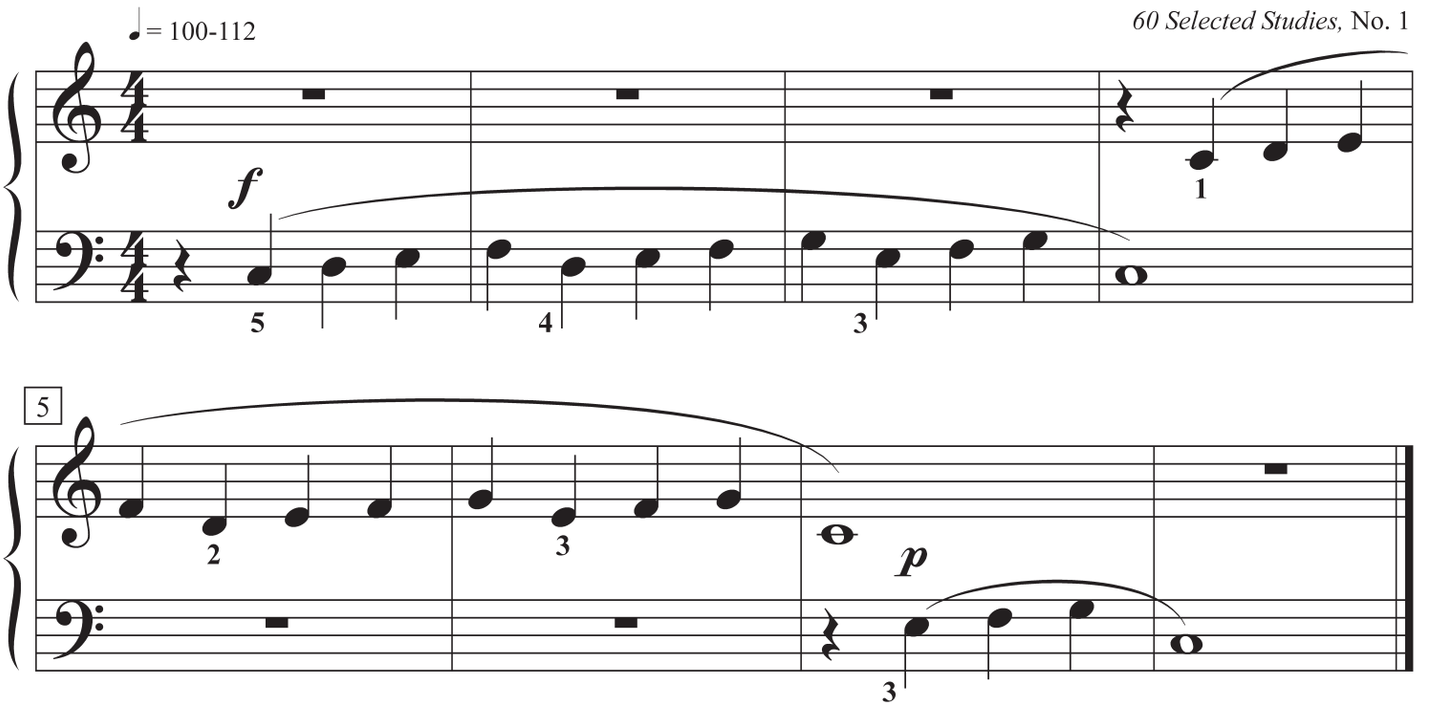
04-40

Burgmüller • *D minor study*

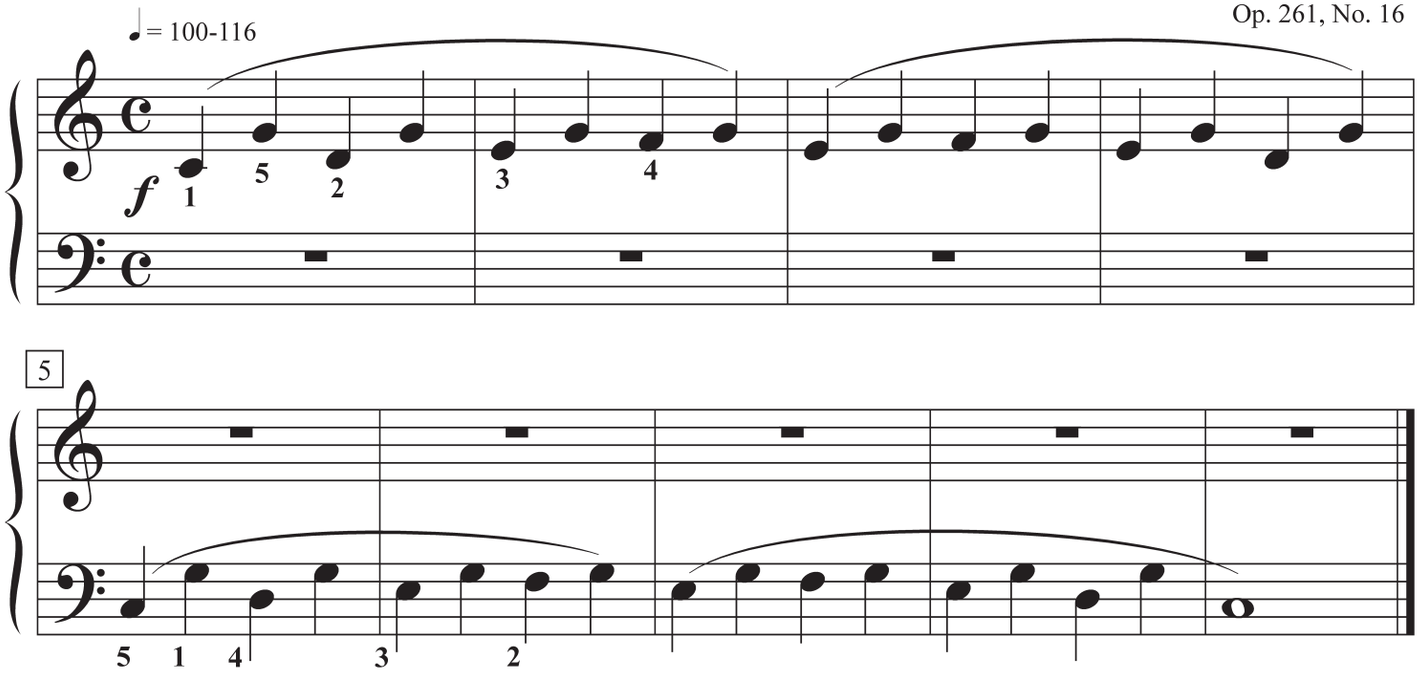


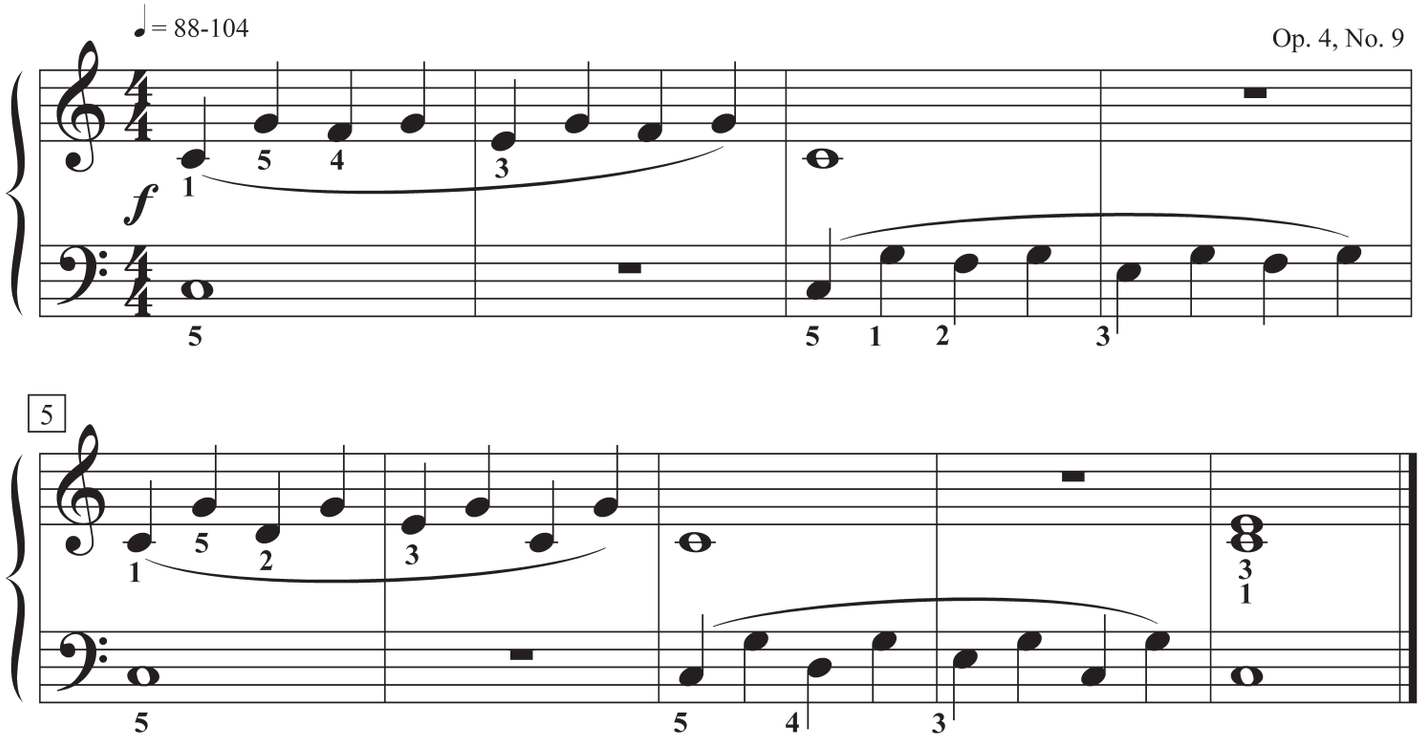
Cramer • *Alternating hand patterns*



Czerny • *5-finger patterns*

Op. 261, No. 16



Krause • *Mixed interval study*

Op. 4, No. 9