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Domenico Scarlatti
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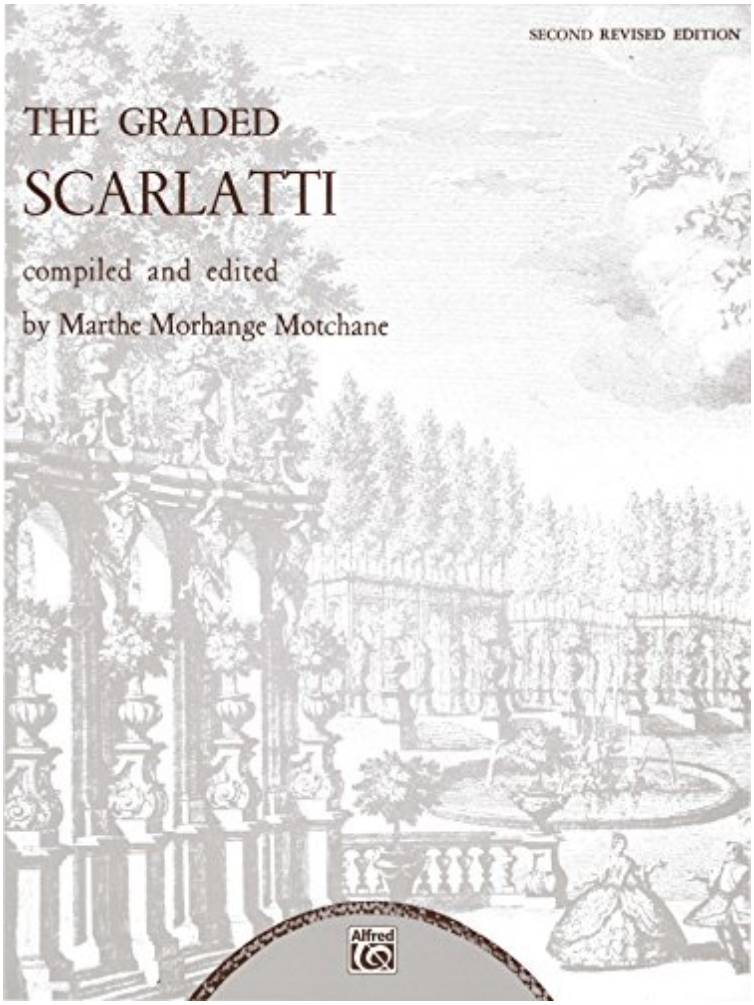

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Domenico Scarlatti : The Graded Scarlatti: Piano Sonatas (Belwin Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Graded Scarlatti: Piano Sonatas (Belwin Edition):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful training in ScarlattiBy William S ReaThis is a selection of 40 of Scarlatti's Sonatas put together by Marthe Morhange Motchange who was a professor of piano in Paris. The book has an introduction, a forward, a ``thematic table" which gives the first few bars of each sonata and K or L number, and a table of ornaments before getting to the music. Each of these is short, at most 2 pages, but generally adequate for their purpose. These works were selected and ordered in level of difficulty. I compared the level of difficulty with the grading provided by the Royal School of Music. The easiest pieces are grade 3 and the most difficult are grade 8. The ordering in this volume doesn't exactly match that the Royal School, but it is clear that the pieces get progressively more difficult. I could not match all the sonatas, but to give you an idea of the level, the first four matches (from seven sonatas) are grades 3, 3, 4, and 4 while the last four sonatas are grade 7, 8, 6 and 6. The differences in their assessed level of difficulty arise simply because of subjective musical factors about what

constitutes difficulty. In playing them I certainly have felt they are ordered very well for someone wanting a set of progressively more difficult Scarlatti Sonatas. Musically, they are a nice selection. The compiler did a good job of picking 40 of the 555 Essercizi for this volume. For a student progressing at the usual rate of one grade a year there are about 6 or 7 pieces which fit within each level. This makes the book an excellent supplement to the more common teaching material which contains pieces from a wide range of composers from different periods. So for a teacher casting around for extra material for students this volume is well worth considering.In terms of a final rating of four stars, I took a star off because these are harpsichord peices and guidence about realization on a piano is missing from the work. I have several other books of Scarlatti sonatas and they give considerable detail on performance both in general and on specific pieces. For someone working with a teacher this may not be a problem, but for people playing for their own enjoyment, some extra material on this would have been helpful.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Luis SanabriaGreat0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy junebuggood

The editor has chosen 40 keyboard sonatas from the more than 500 written by Domenico Scarlatti. These serve as a progressive initiation into Scarlatti's keyboard artistry. The sonatas generally follow the simple structure of a single movement divided into two symmetrical refrains, as in the pre-classical dance suites. Embellishments are written in regular note values for ease of playing, and dynamic indications, which were sparse for the harpsichord, are added for the modern piano. Fingerings are included as a suggested guide.