

The Holistic Primary Piano Teacher

with
Stephen Marquiss

**Checking in
with**



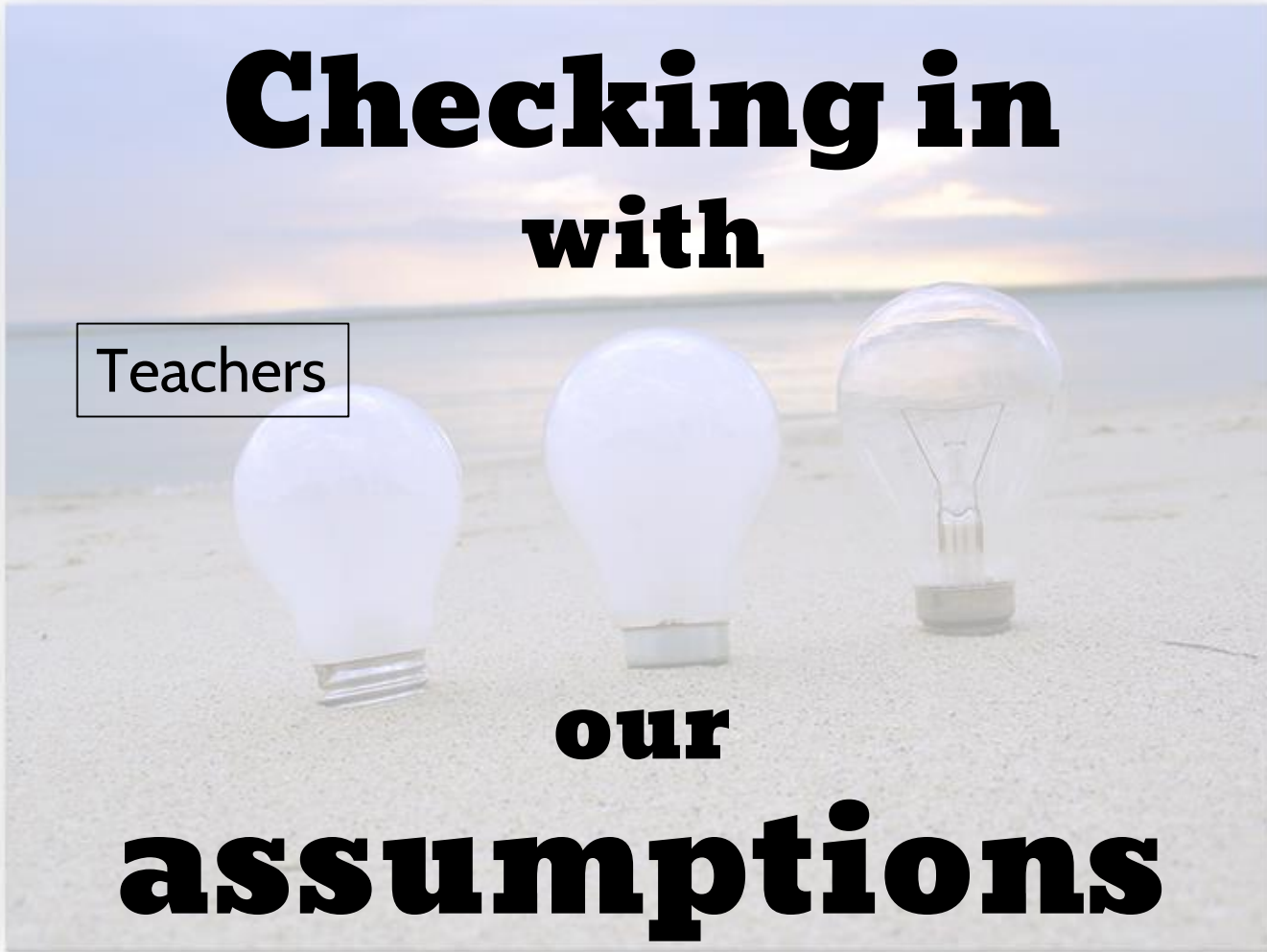
**our
assumptions**

Checking in with

Teachers

our

assumptions



Checking in with

Teachers

Teachers' teachers

our
assumptions

Checking in with

Teachers

History

Teachers' teachers

our
assumptions

Checking in with

Teachers

History

Teachers' teachers

Ether

our
assumptions

- **Dynamic**
- **Creative**
- **Passionate**
- **Dedicated**
- **Imaginative**





KAWAI







“ Checking in and asking yourself honestly whether your **dynamic, creative teaching** is in any way unduly influenced by **assumptions in piano pedagogy** which have been passed down largely unquestioned over generations like a game of **Pass the Message** and which appear to influence almost all tutor books, approaches and even people who’ve never received piano tuition to some extent ”

**“We must all forget those
old, ridiculous rules”**

attributed to
Peter Feuchtwanger

[*The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*,
T. E. Carhart, Vintage, 2001, p. 187]

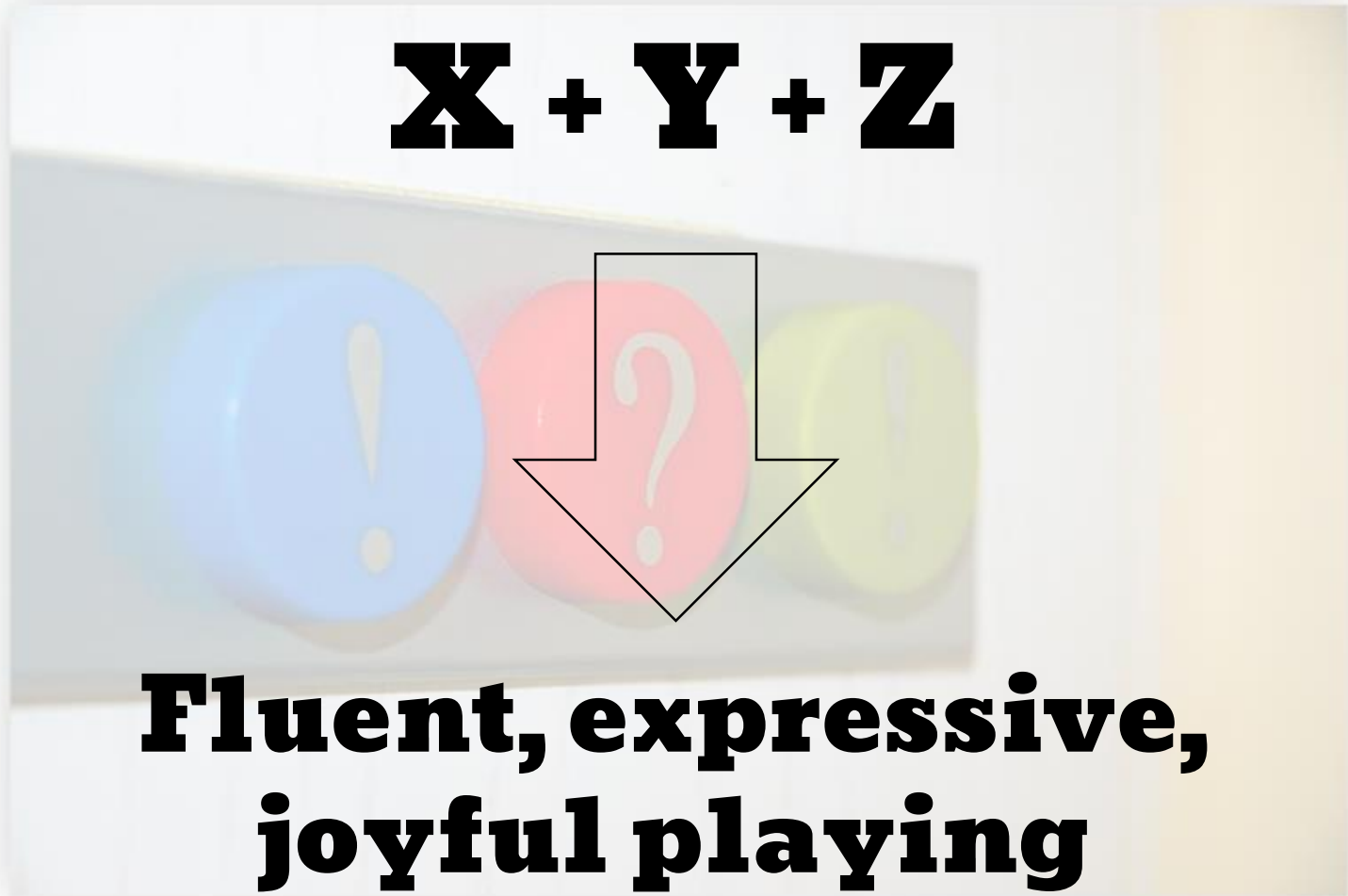
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X + Y + Z



**Fluent, expressive,
joyful playing**

Holistic



Holistic

Technique



‘Grade 1’ Piece





Holistic Technique



**Fluent, expressive
playing**

**Fundamental
Priorities ?**



#1

No Score

- **Listen**
- **Respond**



- **Listen**
- **Respond**

- Dance
- Draw
- Dance with toy/puppet
- Withhold title at first (if applicable)



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“Uplifting”

“Bright”

“Energetic”

“Lively”

“Angry”



#2

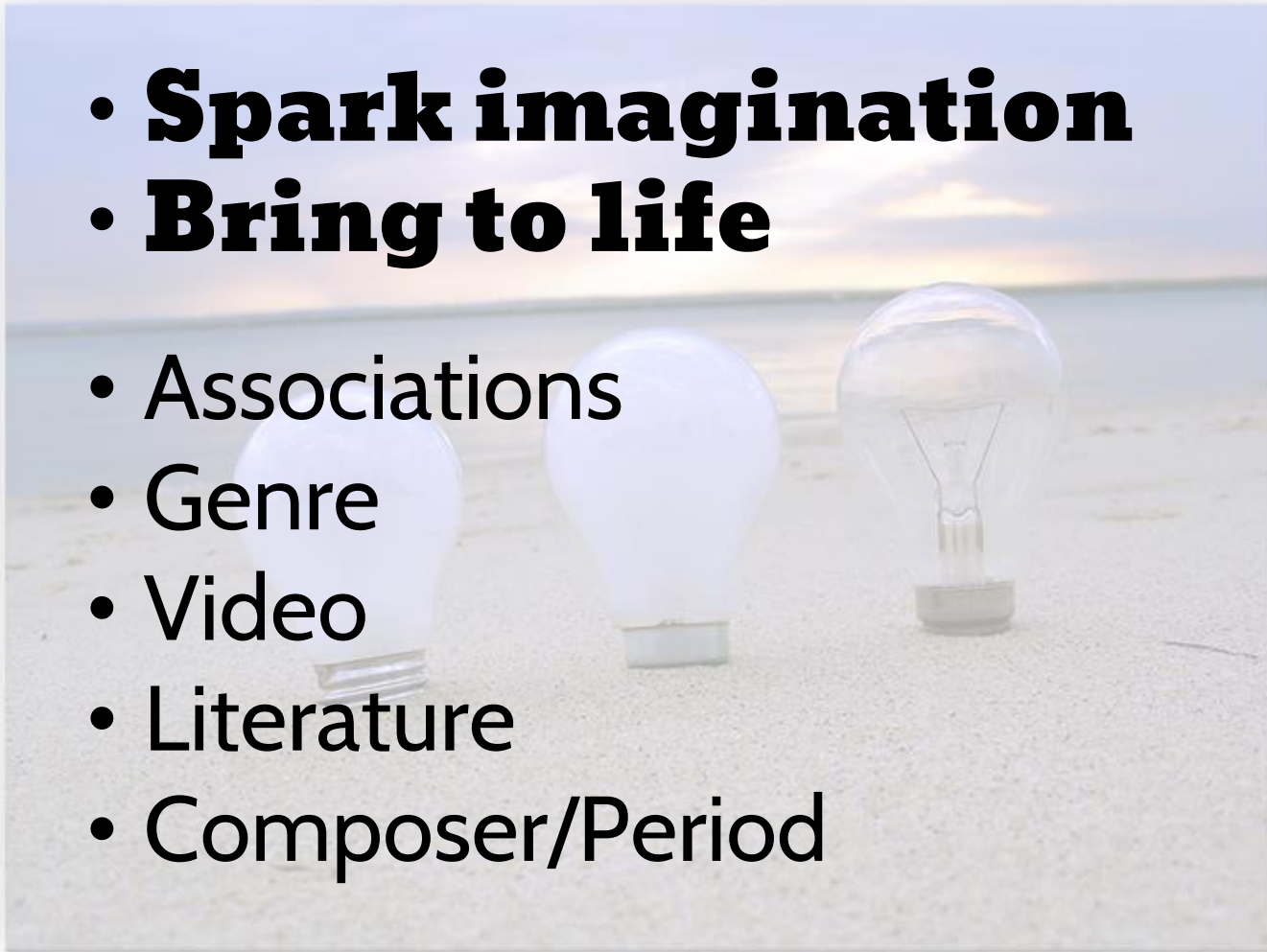
Title

- **Spark imagination**
- **Bring to life**



- **Spark imagination**
- **Bring to life**

- Associations
- Genre
- Video
- Literature
- Composer/Period



Quadrille

Quadrille

by

Joseph Haydn
(1732 - 1809)

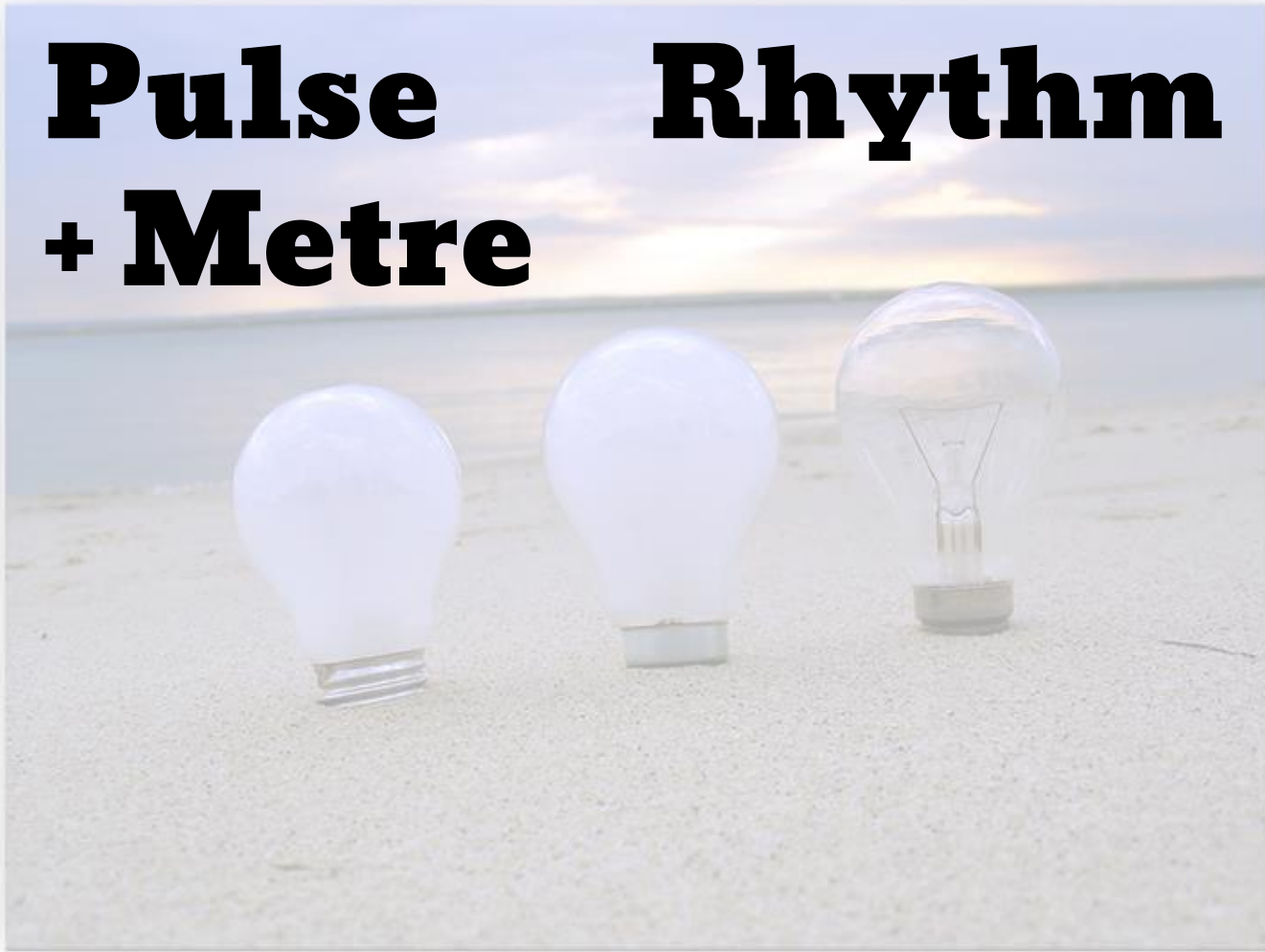


#3

**Begin
at the
Beginning**

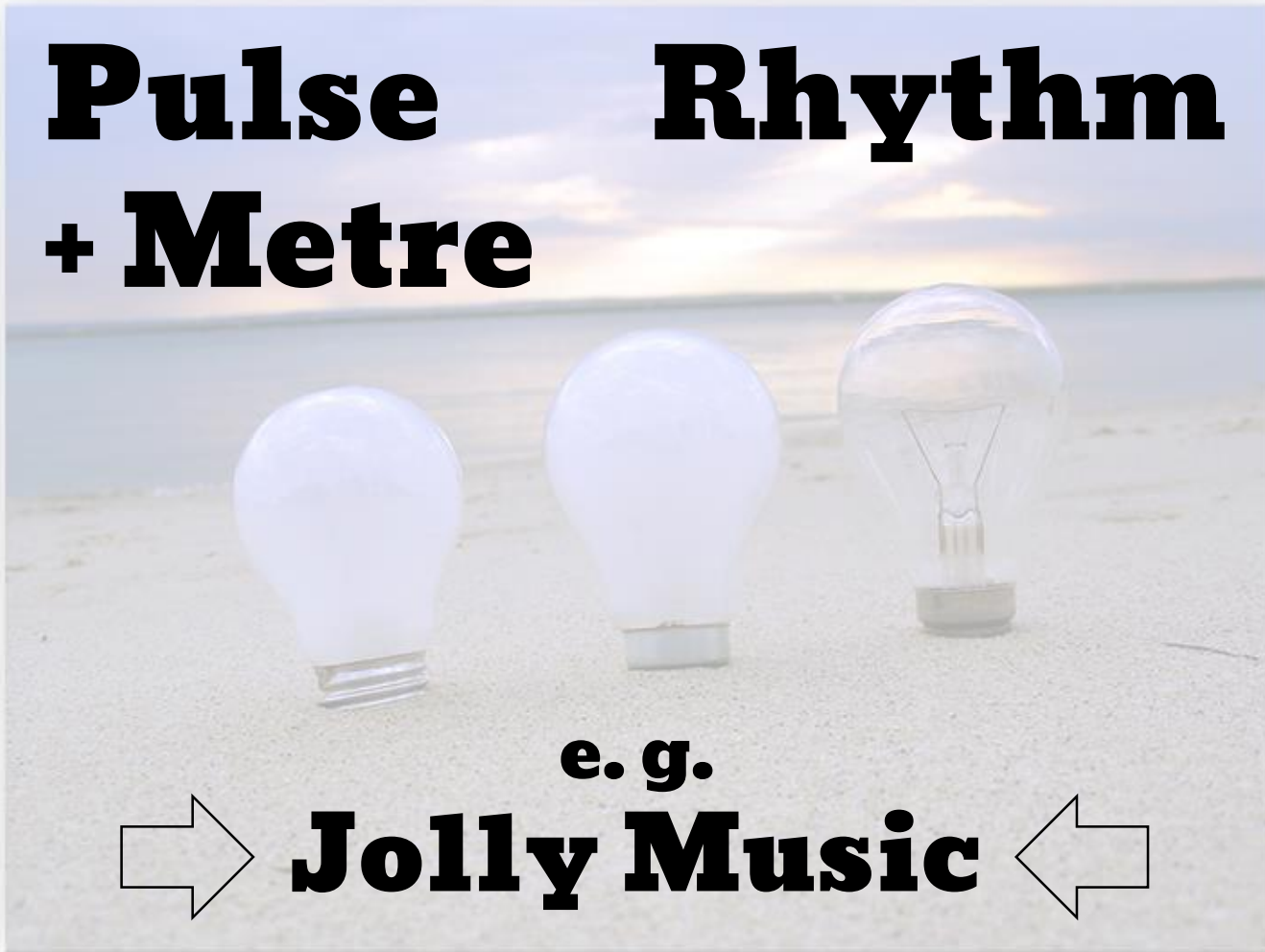
**Pulse
+ Metre**

Rhythm

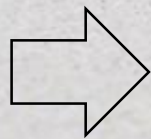


**Pulse
+ Metre**

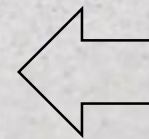
Rhythm



e. g.



Jolly Music



Embody the Pulse/Metre

- Heart charts
- Pulse actions
- Body percussion
- Percussion
- Toys
- Outdoor equipment

Internalise the Rhythm

- Rhythm names
- Call and Response
- Games (Copy Cat, Spot the Difference)
- Body percussion
- Percussion



#4

**The Main
Tune**

Notice

- Melodic details
- Phrasing
- Repetition
- Intervals
- Pitch range

Use

- Hand signs
- Props
- Toys
- Pitch wand
- Scale steps



Classroom resource

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow. The ocean is visible in the background. In the foreground, three light bulbs are placed on the sand. One is on the left, one in the center, and one on the right. The bulbs are white and have a clear glass base.

Listen

Phrases

Empathise

Layers

T'ake time

Attention

Sing

You

GOLDEN PRIORITY #1

of **Holistic Technique**

**Connect Deeply and
Personally with the
Music**

(throughout all activities)

GOLDEN PRIORITY #2

of **Holistic Technique**

Play by Ear

Quadrille

Joseph Haydn

Measures 1-4 of the Quadrille. The piece is in 3/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with a half note followed by two eighth notes, then a half note, and finally a quarter note. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords.

Measures 5-8 of the Quadrille. The right hand continues the melodic pattern, ending with a quarter rest. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent.

Measures 9-13 of the Quadrille. The right hand begins with a repeat sign and continues the melodic line. The left hand accompaniment is consistent.

Measures 14-17 of the Quadrille. The right hand continues the melodic line, ending with a quarter rest. The left hand accompaniment is consistent.

Integrating notation

- Notate **rhythm** and **pitch** independently first
- Notate **rhythm** in different ways (in hearts, as sticks, etc.)
- Notate **pitch** as graphic notation, *so-fa*, dots without stems, use scale-steps



#5

**Know the
Flow**

Know the Flow



- Play in Different Ways
- Improvise
- Engage the torso
- Facilitate technique at first
- Beware of 'muscle memory'



#6

**Know the
Accompaniment**

Know the Accompaniment

- Find ingredients
- Sing
- Notice patterns/repetition
- Embody chord changes



#7

**Play the
Complete
Texture**

Play the Complete Texture

- Embody the rhythm
- Splash
- Sing one part/Play the other
- Play as duet

If it's working...



Let it be!

What Not to Do

- Encourage 'fixing' or 'clinging on' with fingers
- Encourage holding hands out to 'cover' the keys
- Encourage maintaining fixed 'hand positions'
- Anything that inhibits the torso and forearms from 'helping' fingers

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