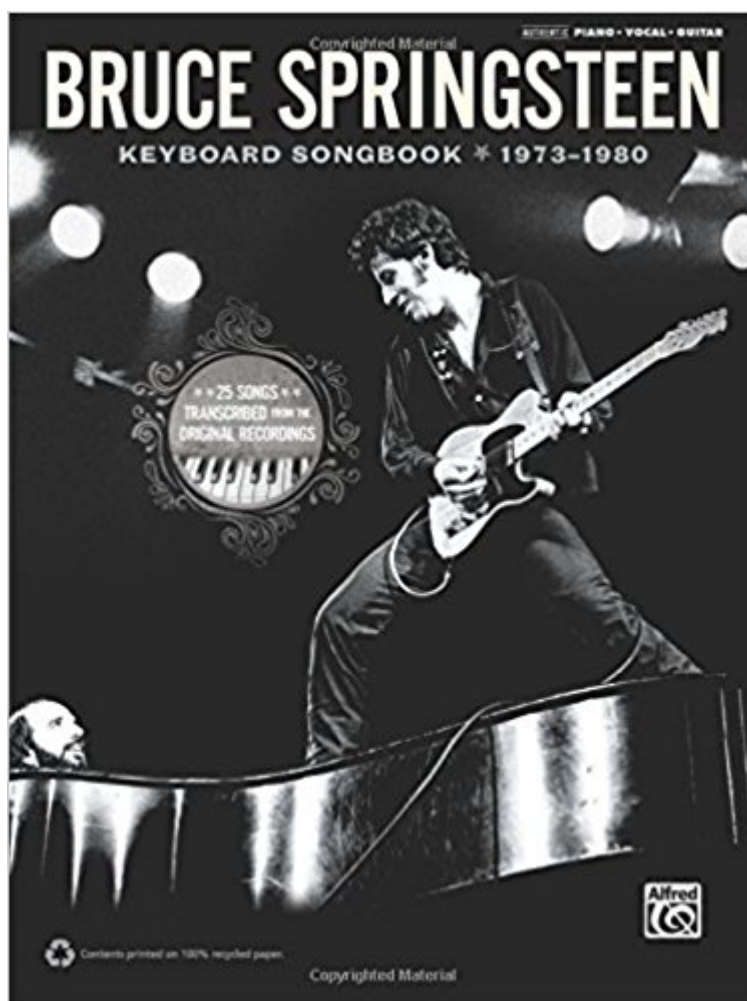


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# Bruce Springsteen -- Keyboard Songbook 1973-1980: Piano/Vocal/Guitar



## Synopsis

For pianists who love Bruce Springsteen, this sheet music collection is a dream come true. Rich with piano, Hammond organ, glockenspiel, and more, Springsteen's early albums contain some of the most memorable keyboard tracks in rock 'n' roll history. Now, for the first time, keyboard parts for 25 songs from his legendary 1973--1980 era have been notated with unprecedented accuracy and gathered in this collectible volume. Note-for-note keyboard transcriptions are woven into arrangements that make each song playable on piano from start to finish. Complete vocal melodies and lyrics are included, along with chord grids for guitar. The 25 selections in this volume were chosen for their playability on piano and their popularity among songs Springsteen recorded during his exciting '70s era---a time of boundless creativity and energy that stands out amid the many highlights of his unparalleled career. Titles: Ain't Good Enough for You \* Backstreets \* Badlands \* Because the Night \* Born to Run \* Darkness on the Edge of Town \* Growin' Up \* Hungry Heart \* It's Hard to Be a Saint in the City \* Jungleland \* Kitty's Back \* Meeting Across the River \* New York City Serenade \* Out in the Street \* Point Blank \* The Promise \* The Promised Land \* Prove It All Night \* Racing in the Street \* The River \* She's the One \* Spirit in the Night \* Streets of Fire \* Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out \* Thunder Road.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Alfred Music (June 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739079859

ISBN-13: 978-0739079850

Product Dimensions: 1 x 9 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #325,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Instrumentation > Keyboard](#) #106 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Specific Artist](#) #172 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Combination Piano, Vocal, & Guitar](#)

## Customer Reviews

Despite the fact that he's primarily a guitar player, the piano has always been essential to the sound of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band. On the first studio albums, Davey Sancious added

jazz-flavored keyboards, while Roy Bittan, who joined the band for the *Born to Run* album, was so fundamental to Bruce's work that when the Boss fired the E Streeters in the late '80s, Bittan was the only band member he kept. This means that keyboard transcriptions of Bruce's work should allow piano players to test themselves a bit and play along to some classic hits. And for the most part, that's what this book does. So why three stars?

1) Song selection: Yes, *Born to Run* is a masterpiece. And yes, Bruce wrote most of the songs on the piano, lending themselves to transcriptions. But in this book, the entire album (excepting *Night*) is included, which limits what can be included from other albums. Obviously, *Thunder Road* with its tinkling piano makes sense, as does *Backstreets* and *Jungleland*. *Meeting Across the River* is a piano showcase, but is it really one of the Boss's biggest hits (it's also a perfect example of point #2, where the album folio does a sufficient job)? There are other question marks in song selection: "Growin' Up" and "It's Hard to Be a Saint in the City" (off his debut album) are okay, but not essential, especially when it means leaving off "Incident on 57th Street" (from his sophomore effort) or even "Lost in the Flood." "Darkness on the Edge of Town" and "Prove It All Night" are fine, but where is "Candy's Room," which features the piano more prominently. The most glaring omissions are probably off the *River* album: *Stolen Car* and *Drive All Night* are piano driven, yet absent from this collection in favor of "Out in the Street." The oddest inclusion is three tracks off the "Promise" boxed set of outtakes from "Darkness on the Edge of Town." The title track merits inclusion, and I suppose "Because the Night" was a hit for other artist, but "Ain't Good Enough for You" is really nothing more than a nice primer for playing 60s rock and roll piano (it would be rewritten as a minor hit for Gary US Bonds as "This Little Girl").

2) Are the transcriptions worth it? In general, yes, they are. They're good and I found only a couple of places where things were missed (like the obvious glissando in *Born to Run*), and it's almost always an omitted fill on a second verse or outro (repeat ad lib or something like that). That's a bit disappointing: The *Billy Joel Keyboard Book*, for instance, has little staves at the bottom of the page to avoid having to have a piano score, so more of that would have been nice. A better job could have been done with the organ parts played over the piano, too (see the *BJKB* on "Captain Jack"). It's really a one-track piano book; Phantom fans will be disappointed. The bigger issue, however, is whether you actually need this transcription book. If you want to play note for note what's on the recordings, yes, I suppose it's helpful. But this book really made me appreciate how good the piano sheet music previously available for these songs is. There's very little here that surprised me. If you take a good look at the regular piano/vocal/guitar sheet music and listen to the album, I suspect you'd be able to figure out 90-95 percent of what's here. There are little bits you might miss, but not much more than that. So I'm not sure that I'm glad I purchased this.

3) A

disappointment to me is that some of these songs are stuck in my head from their live setting. It would have been more interesting to me to have the piano transcription of Thunder Road that opens Live 75/85, to say nothing of the (I think still officially unreleased) Prove It All Night with the piano intro leading into the buzzsaw guitar solo. The same is true of "Because the Night." The title of this book (1973-1980) makes me wonder if a second book is in the works. While the period from 1980-2010 accounts for far more than half of Springsteen's catalog, there are definitely fewer piano songs. Nebraska is a solo acoustic guitar album (unless you count the synthesizer coda at the end of the Japanese release), as are Tom Joad and Devils and Dust, more or less. There's some synthesizer work on Born in the USA, but not much piano. Not much on Tunnel of Love, a lot of synth work on the double albums of Human Touch and Better Days (again, a live version of Real World would be more interesting than the studio). There are a couple of tracks on The Rising (You're Missing stands out, as does Mary's Place) and the same on Magic. Not too much on Working on a Dream. So I'd like to propose that the powers-that-be follow their own precedent and include the Live 75/85 material in the next volume: It was released in 1986, so it would fit within the chronology. The Thunder Road and Racing in the Streets are fantastic. Two other choices I'd like to see included: "Stolen Car" off "Tracks" and the single version of "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." Also, do a better job with the organ and synth solos that pop up from time to time, a la the Billy Joel version. Edited to add: Some alternatives include buying the actual album folios, but also these compilations: The out of print Bruce Springsteen Complete for Piano (for guitar is still in print) contains everything up through Born in the USA and includes a bunch of outtakes. You can search for and order it through [Amazon](#), just be sure it is the piano version. Bruce Springsteen Anthology This has sheet music from the first three albums--a bit broader selection, including Rosalita and Incident on 57th Street. I haven't seen this Bruce Springsteen: Sheet Music Anthology Book but while the song selection is nice and varied (and has Santa Claus), the sample available on the Alfred website looks slightly "easy piano'ed" instead of the reliable and thorough P/V/G sheet music.

There are so few note-for-note keyboard books, and kudos to whoever said "So what if Springsteen plays the guitar? These are great piano songs." Never mind that I'm not skilled enough to play these songs well...it's just nice to know that I could possibly someday play all the right notes and never wonder "how do you do that on the piano?"

This is extremely well done. Music is VERY complete and detailed for piano. KUDOS to those who put this together.. And 25 songs for \$16 is more than a bargain.. Hopefully there are more books by

this company!

Best and most accurate transcriptions for the Boss I have seen so far, and I have searched every where. Worth every penny.

Excellent!

It was exactly what I wanted

This book has what I've been after, which is a good-looking shot at a note-for-note transcription of New York City Serenade. I've been through the first well-known bits and they seem very good (I'll refrain from saying perfect as I don't know). I haven't bothered with much else yet, so many will find this review only of limited use at best, but I did want to remember take a moment to mention that I think I found this one transcription (which is why I am giving it 5 out of 5) in case others are also trying to find it. I took a look at Thunder Road a minute ago, but I can't speak yet to how how it matches up to the piano part on the well-known recording. I am used to just doing more of a chord-based feel-my-way-through it thing, so adjusting to evaluating a note-for-note transcription may be a bit more than I will go for.

I ordered this for a gift. It appears to be exactly what I was looking for. I don't read music so I can't comment from a musical perspective. The book encompasses a wonderful collection of songs that any Springsteen lover would like.

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