

# Alligator

(Focus: mixing thumb melody with 'm' finger/dynamics/staccato with r.h. thumb)

## Exciting New Sounds:

*Dynamics* are changes in volume that help make music more expressive. In this song, *dynamics* help bring the alligator to life. In fact, the symbols for *crescendo* and *decrescendo* even look like the gaping mouth of an alligator. Here is a brief overview of the *dynamic* indications you will find in Alligator and throughout the remainder of this book:

*pp* - pianissimo, very quiet      *p* - piano, quiet      *mp* - mezzo piano, medium quiet  
*mf* - mezzo forte, medium loud      *f* - forte, loud      *ff* - fortissimo, very loud  
< - *crescendo*, growing louder      > - *decrescendo*, growing quieter

1 100  
mf

5 f

9 m pp ff

13 m pp ff

17 mf

21 f poco ritardando pp

## Amazing Animal Facts:

\*Alligators in the wild are believed to live 35 - 50 years.

\*The longest recorded length for an alligator is 19' 2".

\*Alligators have a crushing power of 3,000 psi in their jaws.