

John Thompson's Easiest Piano Course

PART EIGHT

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FOREWORD

Part Eight presents material slightly more advanced than that found in Part Seven, and is designed to develop 'style' as well as technical fluency on the part of the pupil.

More demands on Musicianship also should be made throughout the progress of this book.

As a supplementary book of Technic, the author's THIRD GRADE VELOCITY is recommended.

Since each pupil is 'a law unto himself', no two pupils can be handled alike. Therefore the book is planned to allow the teacher a wide latitude.

The prime purpose of the book is to present **material** which can be adapted to the individual pupil's needs according to the discretion of the teacher.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J' that loops around the first part of the name.

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Play this with light, forearm attack and try to suggest the mysterious, dancing light of the Will o' the wisp. Note that the accents are wedge-shaped. This indicates more emphasis than that given the usual accent sign.

Etude Will O' The Wisp

FRANZ BEHR

Allegretto

p

f

pp

un poco riten

a tempo

pp

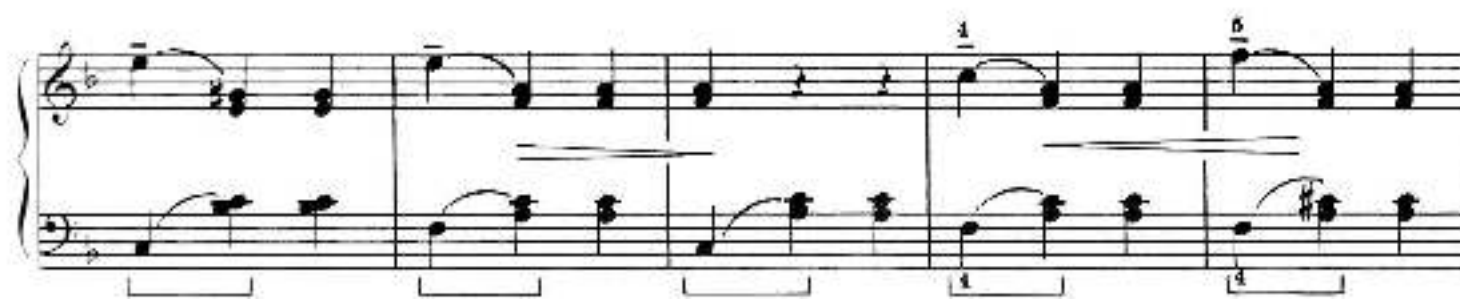
mf

un poco riten

In all dance forms, rhythm is uppermost. In addition to the normal accent, note the sostenuto sign ($\bar{\cdot}$) over the first note of each measure in the right hand. All slurs should be tossed off rather sharply. Give a rather vigorous treatment throughout to suggest the clumping of the heavy wooden shoes.

Clog Dance

Allegretto



A musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for piano (mf) and features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is characterized by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the piece concludes with a double bar line and a final note in the right hand.

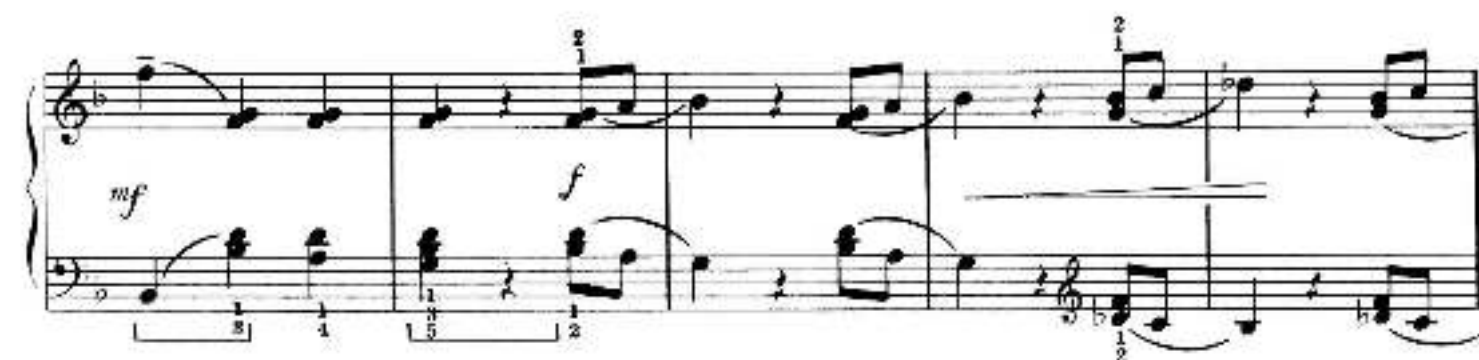
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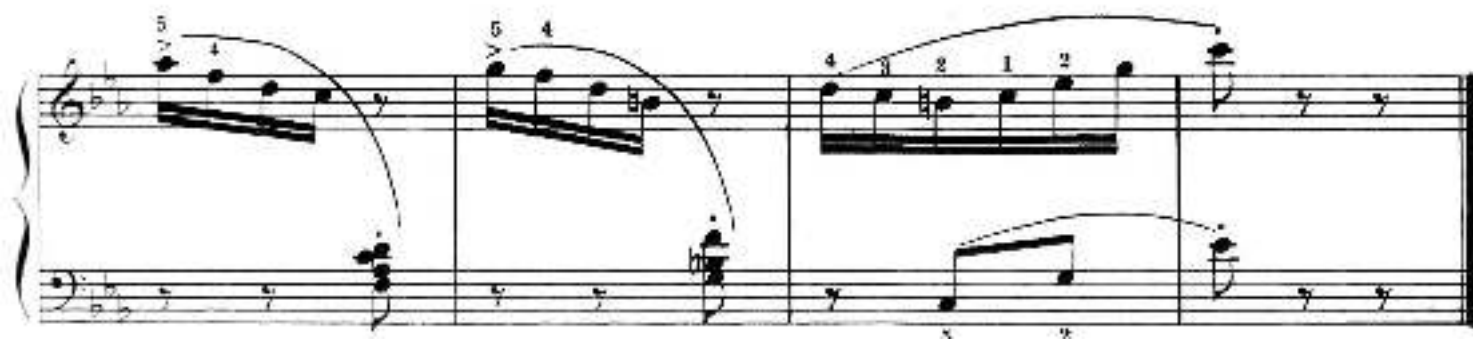
A musical score for a piano piece. The score is written on two staves. The upper staff is in bass clef and the lower staff is in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music consists of five measures. The first measure has a bass note with a slur and a '2' above it, and a treble note with a slur and a '1' above it. The second measure has a bass note with a slur and a '4' above it, and a treble note with a slur and a '5' above it. The third measure has a bass note with a slur and a '5' above it, and a treble note with a slur and a '5' above it. The fourth measure has a bass note with a slur and a '5' above it, and a treble note with a slur and a '5' above it. The fifth measure has a bass note with a slur and a '5' above it, and a treble note with a slur and a '5' above it. The word 'p' is written below the fourth measure. The score is labeled 'The Rose Tree' at the top.

2 8 11 8

mp *poco rit*

L.h. ² over L.h. ² over

al tempo



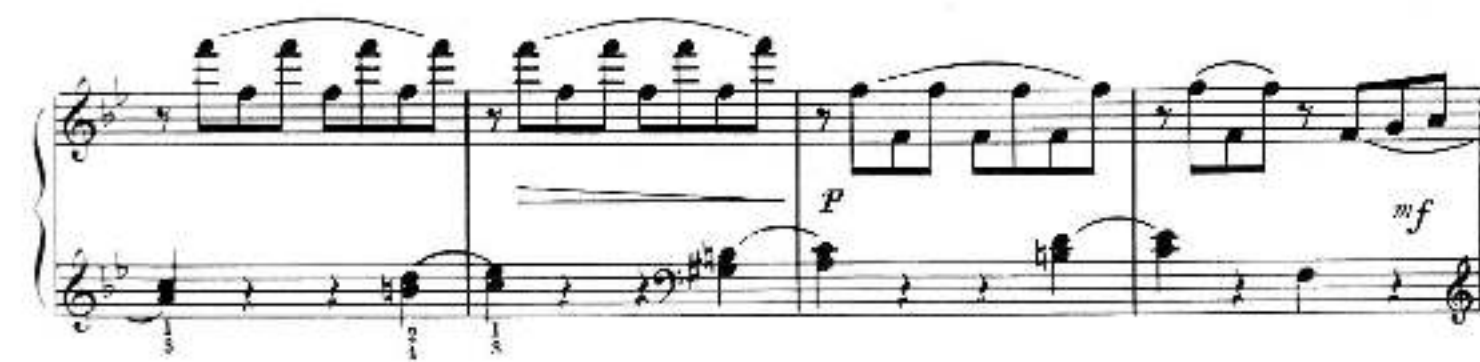
This piece was written as a tribute to the beautiful city of Pest, which forms half of the twin cities known as Budapest, capital of Hungary. The two cities are separated by the river Danube. The original version of this number presents the melody in octaves and it is very popular as a four-handed piece. Keep a well marked rhythm throughout and make sharp contrast between staccato and legato.

from
Salut á Pest

Henri Kowalski
(Arr.)

Allegro

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The melody in the right hand features eighth and sixteenth notes with various fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and accents. The bass line consists of chords and single notes. The second system continues the melody with similar fingerings. The third system returns to a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The fourth system concludes the piece with various fingerings and a final cadence.





Here is a study in smooth finger legato alternating with two and three-note slurs. Play it with all the care given to a solo piece. It contains pianistic passages that will occur in many of your future pieces.

Etude

BURGMÜLLER

Moderato

p grazioso

cresc.

dim.

dim.

p leggiero

cresc.

f

dimin.

f

The musical score is for a piano etude by Burgmüller, titled 'Etude' and marked 'Moderato'. It is written for piano and features a variety of musical techniques including slurs, fingerings, and dynamic markings. The score is divided into five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a treble staff containing a series of eighth notes with slurs and fingerings (1, 4, 1, 4, 4, 3, 2, 5, 3, 1). The bass staff has a single chord (5). The second system continues the treble staff with more slurs and fingerings, while the bass staff has chords and a 'cresc.' marking. The third system shows a 'dim.' marking in the bass staff and a 'p leggiero' marking in the treble staff. The fourth system features a 'cresc.' marking in the bass staff and a 'f' marking in the treble staff. The fifth system ends with a 'dimin.' marking in the bass staff and a 'f' marking in the treble staff.

Johann Nepomuk Hummel was a celebrated pianist and composer of his day. His compositions are distinguished for excellence of construction and brilliancy of ornament. He was born in Pressburg, Germany in 1778 and died in Weimar in 1837.

Scherzo means a joke or jest. When applied as a title, it means an instrumental composition in humorous character. This should give you a clue as to the proper interpretation of the following number.

from
Scherzo

J. N. HUMMEL
1778-1837

Con brlo

mp

crese.

mp



mp

First system of musical notation, measures 1-4. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has chords and a melodic line starting in measure 3. Bass staff has chords and a melodic line starting in measure 3. Dynamic is *mp*.

Double sharp

Second system of musical notation, measures 5-8. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a melodic line with a double sharp. Bass staff has chords and a melodic line starting in measure 5. Dynamic is *mp*.

Third system of musical notation, measures 9-12. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has chords and a melodic line with a double sharp. Bass staff has chords and a melodic line starting in measure 9. Dynamic is *mp*.

D.S. al Fine

rit.

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 13-16. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a melodic line with a double sharp. Bass staff has chords and a melodic line starting in measure 13. Dynamic is *mp*.

The following is a study in arpeggiated playing and consists of broken chords divided between the hands. The transfer from one hand to the other must be made as smoothly as possible. Each group should be played with a rolling motion of the hand, using the minimum amount of finger action.

Etude

BURGMÜLLER

Allegro moderato

p *armonioso*

cresc.

cresc.

sf

First system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 1 2 4 5 and 5 8 1. The bass staff contains a supporting line with fingerings 5 5 and 1 3. Dynamics include *p* and *cresc.*

Second system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 5 3 1 and 1 3. The bass staff contains a supporting line with fingerings 5 3 and 1 3. Dynamics include *p*.

Third system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 1 2 3 4 2 1 2 5 4 2 1 and 1 2 5 4 2 1. The bass staff contains a supporting line with fingerings 1 3 and 1 3. Dynamics include *cresc.*

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 1 2 4 5 4 2 1 and 1 2 5 4 2 1. The bass staff contains a supporting line with fingerings 5 and 1 2. Dynamics include *cresc.*

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 1 3 1 4 3 and 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 3. The bass staff contains a supporting line with fingerings 5 and 1 3. Dynamics include *dim. e poco riten*, *Più lento*, *sf*, *p*, and *pp*.

Arcangelo Corelli was one of the very early Italian musicians and was recognized in his day as a great violinist and composer. Very little is known of his life until he settled in Rome at the age of 28, where he enjoyed the friendship and patronage of Cardinal Ottoboni, a lover of the arts in general and of music especially.

Corelli made friends with many famous painters and his chief hobby was that of collecting valuable pictures. His greatest work was the *Concerti-grossi* which was published only six weeks before his death.

He was buried in the Pantheon at Rome not far from the tomb of the famous painter, Raphael. Cardinal Ottoboni erected a handsome monument to his memory and a statue of him was placed in the Vatican.

It is claimed he laid a firm foundation for future violin technic and that his works advanced materially the progress of musical composition.

A GIGUE is an old Italian dance, played in lively tempo and it was often used as the last movement of a Suite. It is thought that the name derived from the GIGA, which was an early Italian fiddle.

In the following example, be sure to make sharp contrast between staccato and legato and toss off all slurs crisply.

Try to create an atmosphere of mirth and gaiety suggesting the dancing of happy peasants.

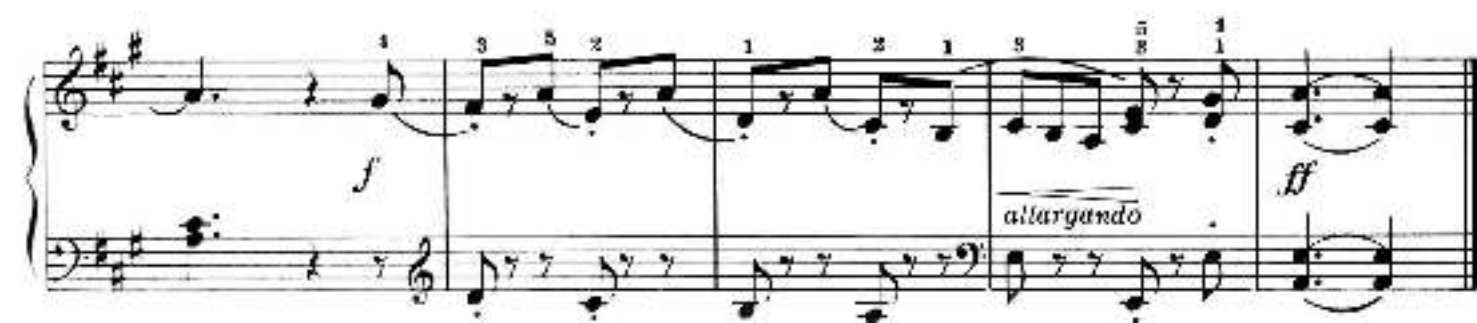
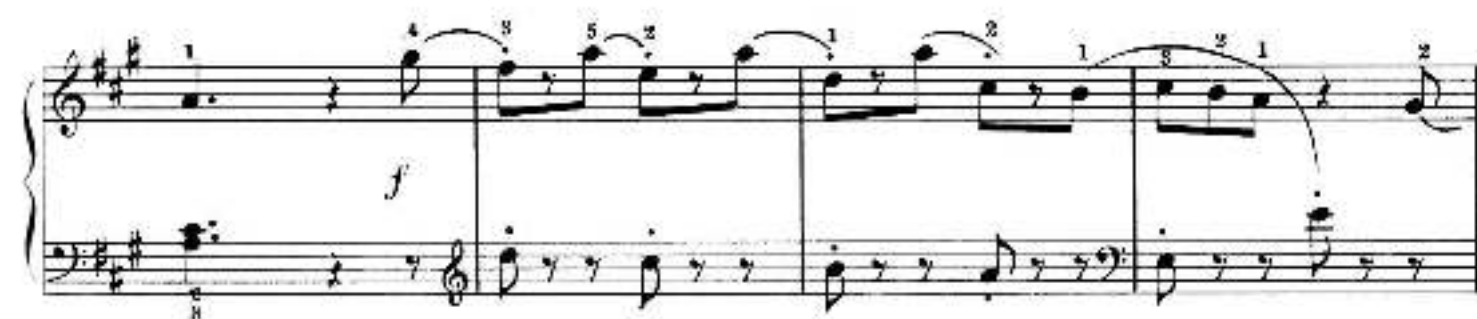
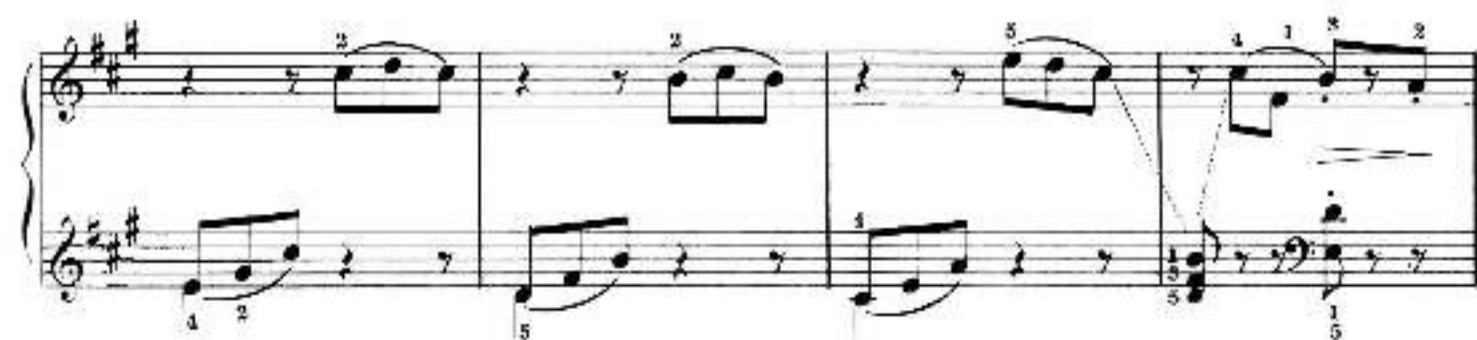
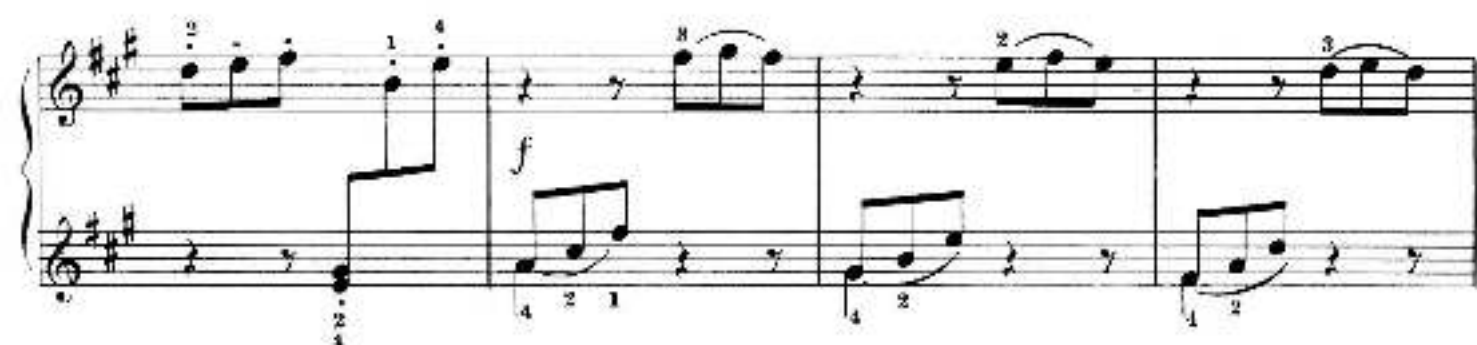
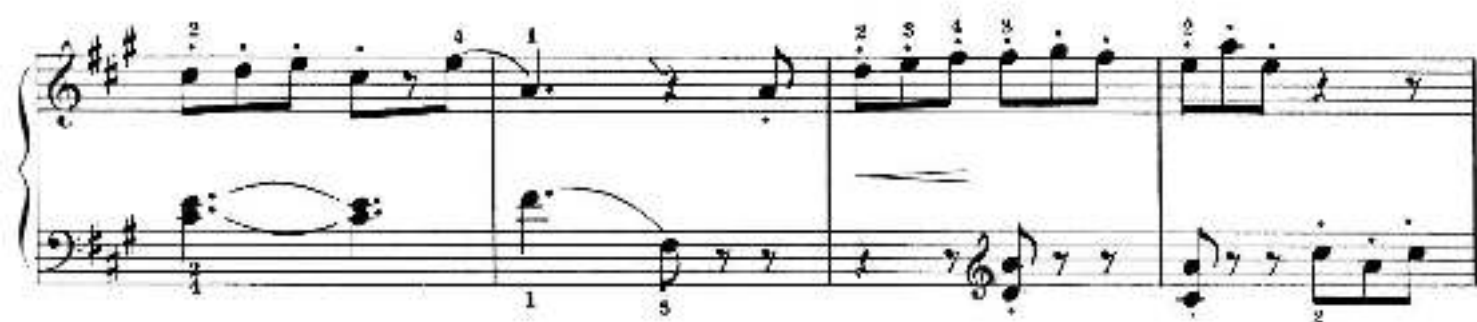
Preserve strict tempo and well-defined rhythm at all times.

from Gigue

ARCANGELO CORELLI
1653-1713

Allegretto ♩ - (88 — 116)

The musical score is presented in two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked *Allegretto* with a range of 88 to 116 beats per minute. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). The second system concludes with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking.



This piece should be played with all the smoothness and grace associated with the dancers of the ballet. As the figures pass from one hand to the other, the transfer should be made without perceptible break. This is a piece that can be used for recital purposes.

Air de Ballet

JOHN THOMPSON

Allegretto

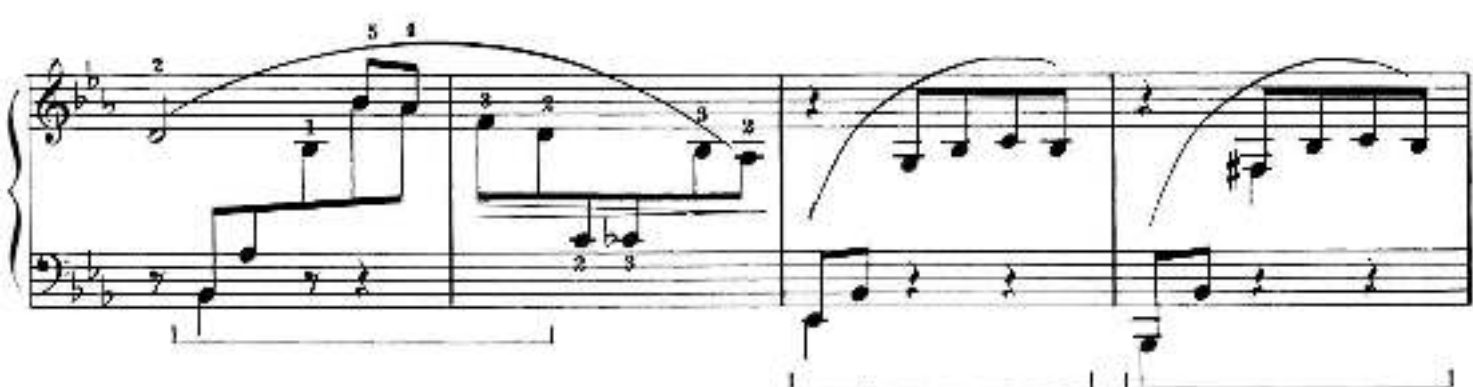
mp

1 2 3 3 2 4 3 1 1 2 3 gl. h. 4 3

5 5 5

r. h. l. h.

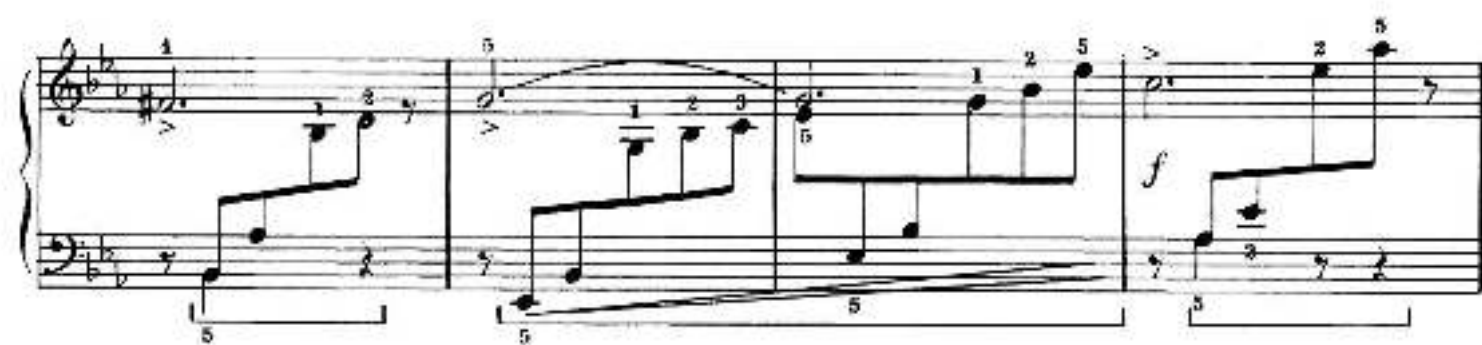
1 2 3 4 5 5 1 4 4



A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The score includes a bridge section marked with a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The lyrics are written below the bass staff.

A musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is in the upper staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a prominent arpeggiated figure in the right hand, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. The melody is simple and catchy, with a clear refrain. The score includes a key signature change from B-flat to A-flat in the final measure.

The image shows the beginning of a musical score for 'The Swan' by Camille Saint-Saëns. It consists of two systems. The first system is a piano introduction, marked with a large 'p' for piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody in the treble staff is marked with a 'p' and a 'r.h.' (right hand) label. The bass staff has a 'p' and a 'l.h.' (left hand) label. The second system is the beginning of the main piece, marked with a 'p' and a 'r.h.' label. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The melody in the treble staff is marked with a 'p' and a 'r.h.' label. The bass staff has a 'p' and a 'l.h.' label. The score is written in a clear, elegant style with a large, bold font for the notes and a smaller font for the lyrics and markings.



Here is an etude in finger dexterity. Practice it carefully as it will help to improve your technic. The arpeggio figure on the last line should sound as smoothly as though played with one hand.

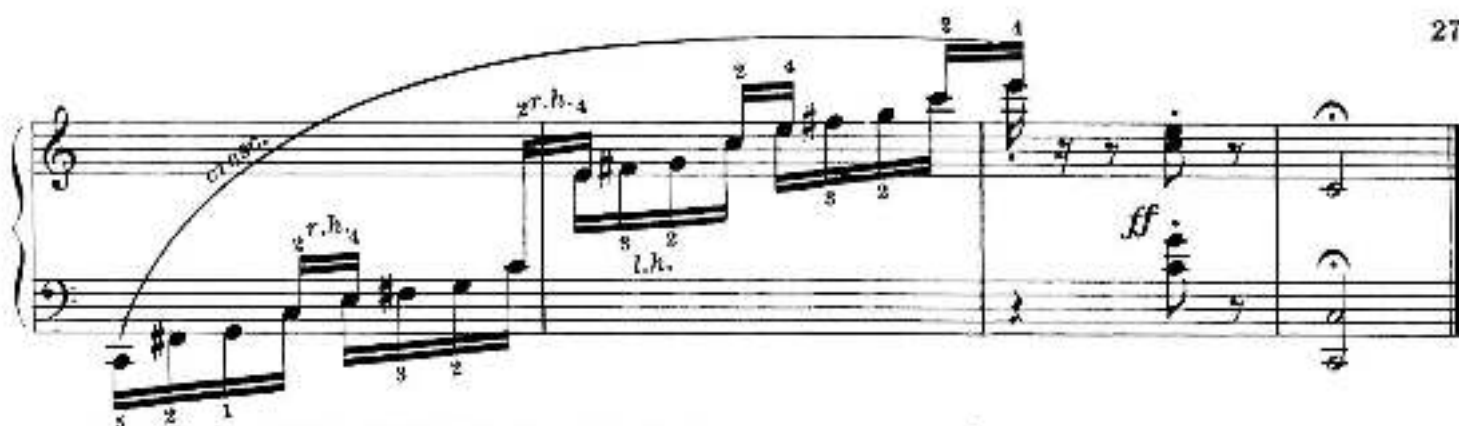
Etude

Presto

P

cresc.

mp



This theme from the great Brahms Symphony should have the effect of a big Chorale. Play the chords with sustained forearm strokes and allow the weight of the hand to rest on the upper notes of the right hand so as to give more resonance to the melody tones.

from
Symphony No. 1

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Maestoso

poco f

molto sostenuto

sfz

poco rall.

This is a piano arrangement of one of Mendelssohn's most beautiful songs. Play the melody with your best singing tone, but because of the low register, try not to let it sound "too thick". See if you can imitate the beautiful quality of a cello.

from
On Wings of Song

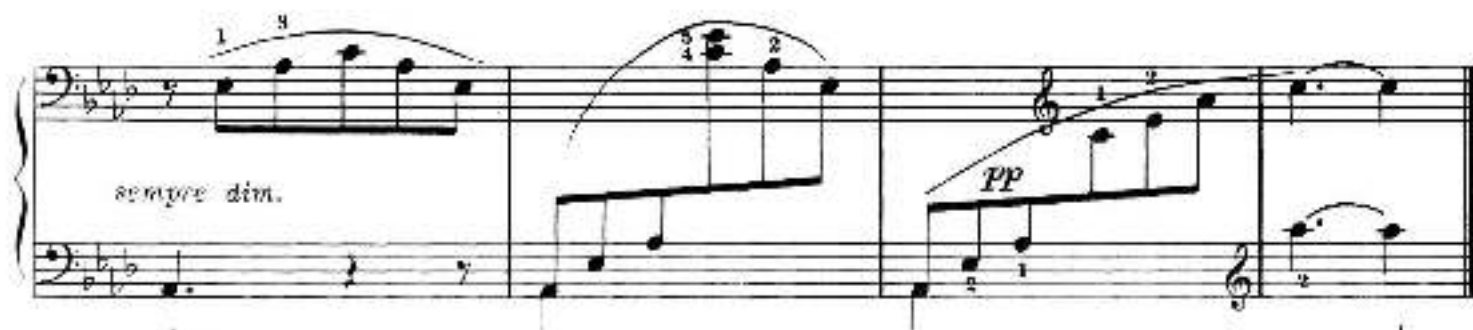
FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Andante tranquillo

p

poco allarg.

a tempo



Here is a study in bouncing wrist staccato. Perform it in the style of a Scherzo – light and playful.

Etude

Scherzando

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems of music. Each system contains a treble staff and a bass staff. The tempo/style is marked **Scherzando**. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (*mp*), piano (*pp*), forte (*f*), and mezzo-piano (*mp*). The piece features staccato chords and single notes, with various fingerings indicated above the notes.

System 1: Treble staff starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Notes are marked with fingerings 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2. Bass staff has a whole note chord.

System 2: Treble staff has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Notes are marked with fingerings 5, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 5. Bass staff has a whole note chord.

System 3: Treble staff has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Notes are marked with fingerings 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1. Bass staff has a whole note chord.

System 4: Treble staff has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Notes are marked with fingerings 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1. Bass staff has a whole note chord.



Zdenko Fibich was born in Seborsitz, Bohemia, in 1850 and died in Prague in 1900. As a composer, he was one of the foremost in the young Czech group.

He wrote three symphonies, several Operas and a number of Symphonic Poems for orchestra. The excerpt presented here has been made extremely popular in America by means of the radio. Play it with utmost expression.

Poem

ZDENKO FIBICH
(Arr.)

Lento
mf dolce

rit.

a tempo
P
espressivo

mf



First system of musical notation. The treble staff contains chords and arpeggiated figures with fingerings 5, 4, 1, 2, 3, 1. The bass staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 1, 2, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2.



Second system of musical notation. The treble staff contains chords and arpeggiated figures with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The bass staff contains a melodic line with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The instruction *cresc. molto* is written in the right margin.



Third system of musical notation. The treble staff contains chords and arpeggiated figures. The bass staff contains a melodic line. The instruction *ff* is written in the left margin.



Fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff contains chords and arpeggiated figures. The bass staff contains a melodic line. The instruction *dim.* is written in the left margin.



Fifth system of musical notation. The treble staff contains chords and arpeggiated figures. The bass staff contains a melodic line. The instruction *pp ritard* is written in the left margin. The instruction *ppp* is written in the right margin.

Here is a waltz that should be played in light, care-free manner with good style and rhythmical 'snap'. It should make a good recital number as it has the quality of sounding much more difficult than it really is.

Valse

Allegro mp

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems of music. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The time signature is 3/4. The first system is marked 'Allegro' and 'mp'. The second system has a 'cresc.' marking. The third system is marked 'f'. The fourth system ends with a double bar line. The fifth system ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'.



Franz Drdla was born in Saar, Moravia in 1868. He made successful concert tours as a violinist in Europe, lived for a time in the United States, then returned to Prague and Vienna. One of the most popular of his violin pieces is the SOUVENIR, arranged here as a piano solo.

Souvenir

FRANZ DRDLA
(Arr.)

Allegro ma non troppo

p

mf

ritard

a tempo







This is a study in contrasting staccato and legato. Keep a sharp rhythm at all times and let the staccato notes be very 'pointed'.

Etude

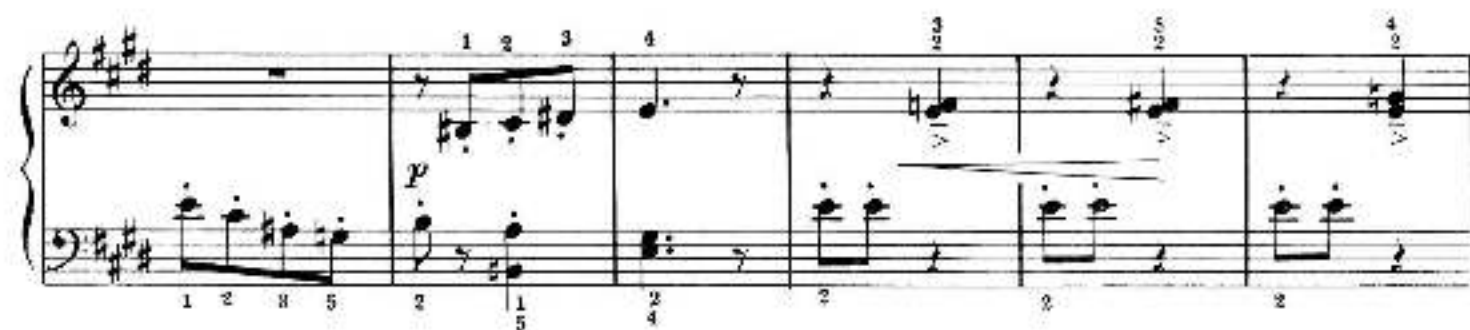
Allegro moderato

The musical score is for a piano etude in B-flat major, 2/4 time, marked *Allegro moderato*. It consists of five systems of piano and bass staves. The piece is characterized by contrasting staccato and legato passages, with a sharp rhythm maintained throughout. The dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *ff* (fortissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000).

Tritsch Tratsch Polka

JOHANN STRAUSS

Allegro animato



Handwritten musical score for Barcarolle, measures 1 through 12. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The notation is for piano, with a treble and bass staff. The left hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the right hand plays a melody with various ornaments and slurs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *f* (forte) at measure 7 and *f* (forte) at measure 10. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 12.

Barcarolle means Boat Song. Be sure to observe the left hand slurs which, when properly applied, give the effect of a rocking motion in imitation of the gondolas as they glide over the inland canals of Venice.

Barcarolle

Handwritten musical score for Barcarolle, measures 13 through 17. The tempo is marked *Andantino con moto*. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The notation is for piano, with a treble and bass staff. The left hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the right hand plays a melody with various ornaments and slurs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *p* (piano) at measure 13. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 17.







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