

Performance Notes

Panache!

The definition of panache is: “flamboyant confidence of style or manner.” Consequently, this piece needs to be played with lots of spirit and energy! Be sure to shape all of the rapid 5-note and 3-note phrases with emphasis on the first note, while lifting out of the ending of each phrase with a rising wrist staccato motion. Start m. 17 softly, with a dramatic crescendo to the end! And give that last note in the LH a nice, dramatic closing gesture.

Une Petite Valse

This short waltz is an excellent study for developing beautiful legato between the hands, while also achieving a variety of articulation. Be careful to avoid accenting beat 3, and place the emphasis on the half-note downbeats. Notice that the three strongest fingers play together on the parallel motion legato patterns in mm. 3-4 and throughout this piece.

The Royal Couple

Pretend that this RH melody is a trumpet fanfare, announcing the arrival of a royal couple! Observe the staccato markings in the RH against the legato half notes in the LH. Again, the strongest fingers in each hand (3-2-1) will help to make this easier to perform with confidence. The open fifths in the middle section (as well as ending) help to ensure a solid, rounded hand position. Play the last two measures with the full arm to create a rich, big sound.

Copycats

This is an excellent piece to develop the concept of *counterpoint*, so critical when playing Baroque music. Careful attention to fingering and articulation will give this piece the clarity and stylistic qualities that are needed.

Lydian March

Built on the Lydian scale (raised 4th), this is a great piece to help students achieve a full, rich sound! For those opening fifths in the LH, use weight from the upper arm behind the fingers to create a nice big sound. As soon as the sound is made, relax the wrist, floating back and forth from register to register. Be sure to start m. 31 softly with each succeeding measure growing in intensity to the final *ff* in m. 34.

Creepers!

This one is designed to help students bring out a LH melodic line, while keeping the accompanying chords in the RH softer. It’s also an opportunity for students to explore chromatic patterns in both hands. There are lots of dynamic changes that will embolden the drama and really bring this piece to life!

Perilous Journey

Students will enjoy the suspense within this solo—created by the mysterious sounds, rhythms, variety of articulations, and clashing harmonies of loud polytonal triads, combined with the pedal. It’s bound to be a crowd pleaser on any recital program.

Gotta Boogie Woogie!

Filled with high energy, syncopation, LH crossing over RH, and boogie-woogie character, this motivational piece will help a performer achieve speed and dexterity. Isolating m. 13 and m. 17 and drilling this pattern multiple times will help to instill confidence and control! Give the whole-note in m. 33 full value before playing the last note in the LH so as to add to the drama of this rollicking piece.

Lys flottants

It’s always fun to find an impressionistic style piece at this level. Play more on the pads of the fingers throughout this short work, always listening for the colors of sound needed to help convey the impression of lilies floating on a gentle lake or pond. Use pedal only where indicated.

Synergy

Students looking for a high energy, driving piece that sounds harder than it actually is will have lots of fun performing this work! Open fifths in each hand abound, and the mixed meters, accents, and boundless energy will make this solo really shine.