

# Performance Notes

## Capriccio in E Minor

This energetic piece is a great study for rapid alternating hands, while strengthening both hands via open fifths and blocked triads. It's important to *feel* this piece in cut time, with accents on beats one and two, which will help to propel the energy forward. The middle section also provides an opportunity to bring out the LH melody line over lighter accompanying notes in the RH.

## Valse sentimentale

Students will need to achieve a warm, singing legato in this charming, lyrical waltz. Listen carefully to the dotted quarter notes, and match the dynamics to the succeeding eighth notes to avoid unwanted accents in that melodic line. This would also be a good opportunity to study the inflections of tasteful rubato.

## Serenity

The harmonies within this piece should evoke gentle, rippling currents of flowing water. It's an excellent opportunity to work on relaxation and elegant choreography, floating out of the ends of those phrases in the RH that end with a half note.

## Whimsy!

This sparkling, mischievous work is great fun to practice and perform! It's a terrific study for the LH in the middle section, and adherence to the fingering patterns will provide the confidence necessary to allow this hand to really shine.

## Boundless Joy

Students will discover "boundless" opportunities for developing various technical skills in this spirited piece. Broken triads, LH over RH, hand contractions, scale patterns, chromatic runs, chord inversion—it's ALL here!

## Scherzo Chromatique

Sparkling articulations, chromatic patterns, alternating hands, and lots of mixed meters all combine to create this humorous and playful solo. Be sure to exaggerate the dynamics, especially the softer sounds, to help create the energy and character that will make this such an effective solo!

## Gardens in the Mist

Most students love these impressionistic sounds and colors, and this solo is full of whole-tone patterns and interesting harmonic colors. Beginning in m.13, play the RH sixteenth notes more on the pads of the fingers, keeping the sound very much in the distance, while the LH projects that legato, melodic line.

## Mystical Odyssey

Imagine journeying through the Nile River and reveling in the wonders of the pyramids while performing this most colorful and expressive solo. The waters sometime flow rather rapidly in that middle section, so work to maintain even and "rippling" sixteenths between the hands.

## Juxtaposition

If you're looking for an exciting showstopper, this will be the perfect candidate! "Juxtaposition" is defined as "the fact of two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect." The opening fifths of this solo are a perfect example of this, and the energy is enhanced by the opposing accents in each hand. Mixed meters add to the drama, in addition to the sweeping, spirited first and second inversion chords in the RH. A spirited tempo with great dynamic changes will tempt audiences to shout "Bravo"!