

## Pianorama 2017 - Conductor's Notes for Level 3B

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### General Comments:

1. Students should practice pieces with metronome at the marked tempo and also at 80% and 90% tempo. In places with ritards or other tempo changes, ignore the metronome and then get back with it for the "a tempo".
2. Students should rehearse with their duet partner prior to the audition. Have them work out tricky parts slowly together so that they can hear how the parts fit together. Ideally, the rehearsals would begin in August or early September so they have time to "live with" the music for a while.
3. Practice having the students look up while someone else conducts, especially at the beginnings, tempo changes, ritards and endings. Show them the conducting patterns for 4/4, 6/8 (in two).

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### Beethoven's Ghost - Bernadine Johnson

A fun piece with famous tunes that switches between duples and triplets. Tempo 120

m. 11 - practice feeling the switch to triplets. Use whatever triplet word or counting works for your students. Tap the pulse and verbalize the switch on beat 3: "1 & 2 & 3-la-le 4 la le

m. 21 - tap the pulse and verbalize the switch to duple on beat 4: "1 la le 2 la le 3 la le 4 & 1"

Primo - m. 18 bring out the RH melody

Secondo – m. 5 - bring out the tenuto notes

Everyone –Observe all dynamic markings. Be sure to drop suddenly at m. 34 for the *subito p*. Shape the "ghost theme" in m. 6-7, et al with emphasis on the half note and falling away to the last note.

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### Country Ragtime - Martha Mier

"Yee haw!" This moderate-tempo rag is sure to get the audience's feet tapping. Tempo 132

Secondo - In general, the LH should dominate in the A section. when you have the "oom pah" accompaniment such as m. 5, play the "oom" stronger and the "pah" much lighter.

Primo - m. 21 - RH should be only *mp* and LH should be softer

Everyone - Observe all dynamic markings. M. 18, drop to *mp* before the *cres.* to *ff* to make it more effective.

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### Saxophone Blues - Martha Mier

Bring your inner Kenny G for this laid-back smooth jazz piece. Enjoy the rich 7th chord harmonies when you put it together with your partner. Tempo 100

Everyone - Introduction - feel the syncopation with a very slight emphasis on beat 2; beat 4 very light. We will try to breathe a little between phrases, esp. m. 28.

Observe the dynamics carefully. Play expressively with sensitivity.

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### A Perfect Storm - Melody Bober

This turbulent piece should be practiced extensively with the metronome at 92, 88 and 84 to gain control over the chromatic scales and to keep the eighth notes from rushing forward. Dotted Quarter = 92

Everyone – Observe all dynamic markings. Shape the slurs and taper them a bit at the ends.

Primo - voice the tops of the chords when it is a melody, as in m. 17-22.

I look forward to making music with you! 🎵