

Pianorama 2021
Conductor's Notes - Level 3A
Janice Cahill, Conductor

General Comments

We have a fun mix of music! Two are in 4/4 swing, one is a 3/4 waltz, and one is a fast 6/8. We will have to switch between these pieces quickly, so practice hearing the first line of each piece in your head before you start. Practice glancing up as you play, as if watching the conductor. You do NOT memorize Pianorama music. You keep one eye on the music and the other on the conductor. Please work out page turns carefully and feel free to leave some notes out. Maintain a steady beat while turning the page.

*Make sure to pencil in small measure numbers for each measure before rehearsals start.

*Mark all music with student and teacher names

*Please use only one book on the piano. When you practice with your partner, decide whose music you will use and transfer any fingerings you need into the "performance book".

Valse Gracieuse

- Be prepared to play this piece at a tempo of 108 per quarter note, not the 116 per quarter note that was listed on the literature list.
- The melody goes back and forth between primo and secondo very frequently. Know and mark where your part has the melody. Play softer when you do not have the melody.
- As the title states, this is a "graceful waltz". When your part has the melody, play it very smoothly, paying attention to the phrasing.
- Be intentional about shaping your phrases and playing lovely, noticeable crescendos and diminuendos.

Just Chillin' Out

- As the title says, we are "Chillin' Out" with this piece so our tempo will reflect that. Please record this around 108 or 112 per quarter note.
- Swing rhythm! Swing those eighth notes!
- Primo - measures 13 - 17 - Play these quarter notes steady, light and crisp. Keep your fingers close to the keys, with tiny up strokes. You are the background music here, so listen to make sure your partner's part plays out over yours here.
- Secondo - be aware of the decrescendo last measure - play that final half note lightly. Watch the conductor!
- Both parts - I will conduct the fermata at the end - be ready to watch me for the cut off.

Heart and Soul

- Be prepared to play this piece at 104 to 108 to the quarter note.
- Most everyone should be familiar with this tune, but please make sure you swing all of the eighth notes
- Primos will handle the page turns. The first one is tricky: if your birthday is January - June, play your LH chords and turn with the RH, leaving out the LH chords. If your birthday is July - December, play the soft offbeat chords with your RH and turn the page with your LH.
- It's important to know at all times when your part has the melody. Listen for the melody throughout the piece and play softer when you do NOT have the melody.

Chasing the Wind

- Play this piece on your audition recording between 108 - 112 *per dotted quarter note*, so make sure to feel two beats per measure when working with the metronome.
- I will conduct this in “two”, so I will be showing you the two strong beats, the first and fourth beat of each measure.
- Primos should play the LH chords much softer than the RH melody in measures 1 - 8 and 35 - 42.
- For the first page turn, it works well for the Secondo to leave out the RH to turn the page. For the second page turn, the Primo could play only one hand on the bottom line and use the other hand to turn the page.
- Mark all of the accents and make sure you’re playing them on the correct notes.
- There are numerous places where both parts have only two measures to play a crescendo - mark these and practice these.
- Both parts - measures 31 - 35 - you have a four measure diminuendo from forte to piano. Make sure you’re starting strong enough so you can gradually get softer.
- Both parts - know that closing chromatic line so well that you can play it in your sleep!