

Conductor's Notes  
Pianorama 2023: Level 1A

### General

- Write your name at the top of your music.
- Number **all** measures in your music with a pencil.
- Bring a pencil with an eraser to every rehearsal.

### All three pieces:

- Watch out! Make sure you are practicing your part in the correct octave. Secondo is an octave lower than written and Primo is an octave higher than written.
- Circle every dynamic marking (including crescendos and diminuendos) and practice them as you learn the notes and rhythms.
- Test your rhythm, coordination, and ensemble with your duet partner by doing the Tapping Challenge.
  - Close the keyboard lid or go to a table.
  - Count out loud together.
  - Your LH will tap the rhythm of your LH notes. Your RH will tap the rhythm of your RH notes.
  - Tap with your whole hand, not individual fingers.
  - Are you tapping in your dynamic markings?
  - Are your taps with your partner's?
- After you think you have the piece learned, test it: pick random places to start in the music to start and stop.
- Practice at a variety of tempos (slow motion, slow, under tempo, at tempo, too fast) for control. No matter what, keep it steady and stay with your duet partner.
- Can you play the pieces without looking at your hands? Then you're ready for a rehearsal with a conductor!

### The Wizard's Wand

*Dotted half note = 72 Although the suggested tempo is at 92, 72 better matches "Mysteriously".*

Both parts:

- Did you circle the dynamic markings?
- This piece has a lot of ties—make sure you hold them (don't play the second one).
- Hold the dotted half notes for three full counts.
- Please don't accent the last notes of slur groups (like in mm. 4, 8, 12, 22, etc.). Instead, make those notes a bit lighter.
- Take the repeat on the first page. The second time through, be sure you jump over the first ending to take the second!
- Who is going to turn the page? Decide and practice the page turn.

Primo:

- Your partner has the melody at the beginning. Be sure your mp is softer than their mf.
- Are your staccato notes short?
- m. 12 has a G-natural (instead of the G-sharp you play in the measures before).
- Get suddenly softer when you take the repeat after the crescendo in mm. 13-16.
- m. 19 is your melody! Bring it out.
- Very quiet at the end!

Secondo:

- Are you playing *mf* at the beginning and bringing out the accented notes? You should, because you have the melody!
- Are your staccato notes short?
- Watch out for the G-natural in m. 11.
- Make sure RH third finger stays on B-flat throughout the quiet section in mm. 19-30.
- The *subito piano* in m. 37 should be sudden! Be sure it is very quiet to surprise the audience.
- Notice the *ottava* (8va) sign on the last note—play it an octave lower.

### **Dance of the Wood Nymphs**

*Half note = 120*

Both parts:

- This piece is a dance of fairies who live in the forest! You can help bring out the “light and sparkling” mood of this piece by making sure your staccato notes are very short.
- Listen carefully—do you hear silence during your rests?
- Take the repeat on the second page. Again, remember, the second time through, don’t play the first ending—skip over it and jump to the second ending.
- Did you circle your dynamic markings to help you remember them?
- Bring out the accented notes!
- Big crescendo at the end.

Primo:

- Turn the page during your half rest in m. 16.

Secondo:

- Cross your RH over your LH to play the bass A at the end.

### **Riding the Waves**

*To be determined with the group: between 150-180*

Both parts:

- Please make sure notes connected by slurs are also connected in the sound. Pay special attention listening to slurs that switch between the hands. After all, we want to sound like we’re riding waves, not running into hidden underwater rocks!
- Did you circle your dynamic markings?
- Have you decided who is turning the page?
- Hold long notes (half notes, dotted half notes) for their full value.
- Learn the notes carefully: in the melody lines, there are often skips hidden with the steps (like in primo m. 8 or secondo m. 19). You can help yourself memorize these patterns by saying the note names out loud as you play them, saying the finger numbers out loud as you play them, and singing as you play.

I am looking forward to making music with all of you soon!

- Dr. Tim