

**Pianorama 2023**  
**Level 2B**  
**Conductor's Notes**

**General notes**

- ❖ Pencil in measure numbers for all pieces!
- ❖ Even if you learn your pieces so well that they are memorized, keep your eyes UP on the music as much as possible and practice glancing up above your music frequently to check in with the conductor. Only look down at your hands when necessary and then get your eyes back up to the music!
- ❖ Practice being able to start at many different sections/phrase beginnings in each piece.

**Ecossaise**

- ❖ Light & playful mood. Crisp (but not heavy) staccatos, please!
- ❖ Bring out the melody when you have it, keep everything else in the background.
- ❖ Practice with a metronome to maintain the tempo throughout.
- ❖ Make sure RH articulations are clean even while playing held half notes in the LH:  
Primo mm. 9-16, Secondo mm. 17-24

**Melody in F**

- ❖ Let's make beautifully shaped phrases in this piece!  
m. 1-8 and 9-16 Primo melodies are "rainbow" shaped – crescendo through m. 4, decrescendo through m. 8. Secondo accompaniment is gentle and delicate on p. 1.
- ❖ Places to pay special attention to balance:  
mm. 17-24 melody is in the Secondo RH. Everything else should be played much more softly.  
Pick up to mm. 25-28 melody is in the Primo RH. Everything else should be played much more softly.
- ❖ Secondo – you have a big job making sure the pedal changes are CLEAN.
- ❖ Be able to play this piece while watching the music/the conductor, especially around m. 32 and m. 47-end. I may conduct in 4 instead of 2 to show the *ritenuto/ritardando*.

**Billy Goat Rag**

- ❖ Learn these syncopated rhythms carefully – 8<sup>th</sup> notes are even (no swing).  
Practice with a metronome to maintain the tempo throughout.
- ❖ Keep accompaniment parts light, Secondo can bring out the accented bass line mm. 4 & 7.  
Be aware of the changes from melody to accompaniment and vice versa between the parts in mm. 17 and 23.
- ❖ Secondo  
m. 1 change *mf* to *mp*  
m. 25 (Coda) change *f* to *mf*
- ❖ Primo  
It would make the most sense for you to handle the page turns in this piece. Consider playing both notes in m. 12 with RH and turn with LH.

**Celebration March**

- ❖ I may conduct this in 2 instead of 4 to keep things moving along. Practice with a metronome!

Pay attention to:

- ❖ Dynamics  
Some phrases start quietly and build. Control the crescendo!
- ❖ Balance  
Be aware of when you are playing melody vs. accompaniment, and if you play both at the same time (like Secondo m. 13-16), bring out the melody and keep the rest in the background.
- ❖ Articulation  
Learn these carefully! Lots of changes between legato and staccato (especially the Primo part), or playing two articulations simultaneously (Secondo LH half notes with RH staccato chord).
- ❖ Rhythm  
Make sure syncopated melody rhythms are clean and keep a steady beat throughout.

I look forward to working with Level 2B this fall!  
Rachel Mills