

24

CHARACTER PRELUDES

Late Intermediate
to Early Advanced
Piano Solos in
All Major and
Minor Keys

Dennis Alexander

Foreword

This collection of preludes in all major and minor keys contains a wealth of pedagogical challenges for the late intermediate to early advanced level student. Each piece is designed to explore one or more pianistic problems, and at the same time serves as excellent preparatory repertoire for the more complex character pieces of the great masters of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The sounds of Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Ravel, Gershwin, Prokofieff and Copland are echoed in the pieces in this collection.

Great care has been taken to ensure that within each key, musical and technical demands are ultimately pianistic and allow for a sensitive, successful, and personal interpretation. The sequence of the preludes (the major key followed by its parallel minor rather than its relative minor) follows a tradition started by J. S. Bach in his *Well-Tempered Clavier*. I hope that students and teachers will enjoy studying and performing these preludes as much as I enjoyed writing them. Best wishes for your success!

Dennis Alexander

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All selections in this book are performed by Dennis Alexander on the CD, *24 Character Preludes*, available as a book and CD combination (#20752).

The artwork on the cover is an original work created by the composer's late son, Darren Alexander (1974–1998). The medium is a melted wax technique that Darren perfected. It became the vehicle and inspiration for his greeting card business "Color Impressions." Darren attended the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida.



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This collection is dedicated to all my students, both past and present, who continue to inspire and influence my creative spirit.

Opening Act

C Major

Dennis Alexander

Allegro giusto (♩ = 104-108)

Musical score for measures 1-3. The piece is in C major and common time. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (1 2 1 2, 2 3, 4, 4 1). The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes, including fingerings (5, 1 2 4, 1 3 5, 1 2, 1 3, 2, 1 5, 2, 1 5).

Musical score for measures 4-6. The right hand continues the melodic development with slurs and fingerings (4 1 3 1 3 1 2, 1 2 1 2, 2 3, 2 1 2). The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines with fingerings (3 1 3 2 1 2, 2, 1 2, 1 3, 1 5).

Musical score for measures 7-9. The right hand features more complex melodic patterns with slurs and fingerings (2 1, 1, 1, 4 3, 4). The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines with fingerings (1 5, 1 2, 1 4, 1 5). A forte (*f*) dynamic marking is present in measure 9.

Musical score for measures 10-12. The right hand continues with melodic lines and slurs, including fingerings (4, 1 2 1 2, 1). The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines with fingerings (1 4, 1, 1, 1 5, 3). A mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking is present in measure 10.

Longing

B Minor

Moderato con sentimento (♩ = 72-76)

Dennis Alexander

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The music is in B minor (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The tempo is Moderato con sentimento (♩ = 72-76). The dynamic is *mf*. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 3, 1, 2, 4, 2, 1, 4. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 5, 2, 1, 2, 5, 2, 1, 4, 5, 1, 4, 1, 2.

Measures 5-8 of the piece. The right hand continues the melodic line with fingerings 2. The left hand continues the bass line with fingerings 1, 4, 5, 2.

Measures 9-12 of the piece. The right hand has a more active melodic line with fingerings 2, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 3. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 1, 3, 5, 2, 1, 5, 3.

Measures 13-16 of the piece. The right hand has a melodic line with fingerings 5, 2, 1. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 5, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 5. The dynamic changes from *f* to *mp* in measure 14.

Bravissimo!

F Minor

Dennis Alexander

Presto appassionato (♩ = 168–184)

1 2 5 4 5 2 4 3 5

f

3 3 3

1 5

4

3 1 2

mf

7

4 5 5 5 3 5

f

10

5 2 5 3 5 4 5 3