

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

Dennis Alexander

Contents

Bravissimo! (F minor)	38	Opening Act (C major)	2
Castle in the Mist (C# minor).	25	Petite Nocturne (B major).	17
Celestial Lullaby (E major).	15	Regrets (F# minor)	22
Corps de Ballet (Gb major)	20	Smoldering Blues (Ab major)	26
Dreamcatchers (A minor).	13	Solemn Decree (Eb minor).	31
Fleeting Spirits (E minor).	16	Sunshower (Eb major)	29
Gymnastic Extravaganza (Bb minor)	34	Thunderflash! (G# minor).	28
Jubilato (Db major)	23	Timeless (G major)	5
Longing (B minor)	18	Village Piper, The (D major)	8
Melancholy Evening (C minor)	4	Warm Embrace (Bb major).	32
Morning Glories (F major)	36	Whirlwind (D minor)	10
On Majestic Peaks (A major)	12	Zigzag (G minor)	6

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.



Copyright © MMI by Alfred Music
All rights reserved. Produced in USA
ISBN 0-7390-1210-X

*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 notation for measures 1-3. The piece is in C major and common time. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a melody marked *mf*. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1 2 1 2 for the first measure, 2 3 for the second, 4 for the third, and 4 1 for the fourth. The second staff (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 5, 1/2/4, 1/3/5, 1/2, 1/3, 2, 1/5, 2, 1/5.

Musical notation for measures 4-6. Measure 4 is marked with a box containing the number 4. The first staff continues the melody with fingerings 4 1 3, 1 3 1 2, 1 2 1 2, 2 3, and 2 1 2. The second staff continues the bass line with fingerings 3, 1 3 2 1 2, 2, 1/2, 1/3, and 1/5.

Musical notation for measures 7-9. Measure 7 is marked with a box containing the number 7. The first staff features a melodic line with fingerings 2 1, 1, 1, 4 3, and 4. A dynamic marking of *f* appears in measure 8. The second staff continues the bass line with fingerings 1/5, 1/2, 1/4, and 1/5.

Musical notation for measures 10-12. Measure 10 is marked with a box containing the number 10. The first staff has a melodic line with fingerings 4, 1 2 1 2, and 1. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. The second staff continues the bass line with fingerings 1/4, 1, 1, 1/5, 3, and 1/5.

Qubilato

D \flat Major

Allegro strepitoso (♩ = 138)

Dennis Alexander

The musical score is written for piano and bass. It consists of five systems of two staves each. The key signature is D-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Allegro strepitoso' with a quarter note equal to 138 beats per minute. The score includes various dynamics: *ff* (fortissimo), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The piece features intricate sixteenth-note passages in the right hand and simpler accompaniment in the left hand. The score concludes with a final cadence in the right hand.