

for my friends and fellow nature lovers, Paul and Amy Bonneau

Crystal Glaciers

Alaska is home to some of the largest glaciers in the world. Glaciers form when more snow falls during the winter than can melt and evaporate in the summer. The extra snow gradually creates layers, and the weight of the snow compacts the ice crystals under the surface into glacial ice. Glaciers sometimes slide down the side of a mountain and break apart as they reach the ocean. When ice breaks off the side of the glacier and falls into the water, it is called "calving." Thousands of tourists get to see this awesome process every year.

Mike Springer

Slowly, with strength (♩ = 88)

5

9

13

mf

f

ff

mf

Glaciers crash into the sea

8va

8va

Iditarod Sled Race

Once a year, the most famous dog sled race in the world takes place in Alaska. It is held on the first Saturday of March, beginning in Anchorage and ending in Nome. A team of dogs (usually consisting of 15 Siberian or Alaskan Huskies) and the sled driver, known as the "musher," cover more than 1000 miles during the race in less than two weeks! Many times, this happens through blizzard conditions and requires tremendous endurance. Many mushers and their dogs train all year for this event. Both women and men compete.

Mike Springer

Swiftly (♩ = 120)

1

f

$\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ *simile*

5

mf *p* *mf*

10

p

15

f *mf*

3 2

Dazzling Lights

The Aurora Borealis, also referred to as the "Northern Lights," is a dazzling display of multi-colored lights rippling across the sky. It occurs when the electrical energy from the sun is carried to the Earth by the solar wind. When the energy collides with gas particles in the upper atmosphere close to the North Pole, the beautiful lights peel across the sky! These random displays can be seen with the naked eye only at night and are often seen in the Alaskan skies.

Mike Springer

Moving very gently (♩ = 132)

The musical score for "Dazzling Lights" is written for piano and bass. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked "Moving very gently" with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number in a box: 1, 5, 9, and 13. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system (measures 5-8) includes an 8va instruction. The third system (measures 9-12) includes a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth system (measures 13-16) includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score features various musical notations, including slurs, ties, and fingerings.

Mighty Mount McKinley

Mount McKinley, part of the Alaska Range of mountains, is the highest peak in North America. It was named for William McKinley, who was president of the United States from 1897 to 1901. The mountain actually has two peaks. The South Peak soars 20,320 feet while the North peak is slightly lower at 19,470 feet. The mountain is so tall that it creates its own weather patterns. Most of the time, the highest peak is not visible due to weather conditions created by the mountain. Mount McKinley is known locally as "Denali" which means "The Great One" and is the chief attraction of Denali National Park.

Mike Springer

With majesty (♩ = 116)

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The right hand starts with a quarter rest followed by an eighth-note melody starting on G4. The left hand has a bass line starting on G3. The system concludes with a chord marked *8va* (octave up) in both hands.

The second system continues the piece, starting with a measure number of 5 in a box. The right hand melody continues with eighth notes. The left hand accompaniment features chords and moving bass lines. The system ends with a measure marked with a '2' in the bass line.

The third system begins at measure 9, marked with a '9' in a box. The dynamic marking changes to *mf* (mezzo-forte). The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 1, 5, 2, 1, 5, 1. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 5, 2, 5, 5. The system concludes with a measure marked with a '5' in the bass line.

The fourth system begins at measure 13, marked with a '13' in a box. The right hand melody continues with fingerings 5, 3, 1, 5. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and a bass line with fingerings 2, 1, 2. The system ends with a measure marked with a '5' in the bass line.