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Toccata Robusto

Dennis Alexander
(b. 1947)



Keys to this piece:



Listen for a clear contrast between legato and staccato touches.



Bring out the robust character by exaggerating the crisp gestures of the alternating hands (the gestures should get bigger as you get louder).



Move your arms with dramatic arcs when playing large leaps (measures 33-35, 45-52).

Allegro e molto ritmico (♩ = 108–120)

*begin with a crisp,
rhythmic gesture*

The musical score for measures 1 through 13 of 'Toccata Robusto' is presented in a grand staff format. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegro e molto ritmico' with a quarter note equal to 108-120 beats per minute. The score begins with a note indicating to 'begin with a crisp, rhythmic gesture'. The first system (measures 1-4) shows the right hand playing a series of eighth notes with slurs and fingerings (1, 2, 3), while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *mf*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the right-hand pattern, with a crescendo leading to a *f* (forte) dynamic. The third system (measures 9-12) returns to the *mp* and *mf* dynamics. The fourth system (measures 13) shows a further increase in dynamics, with a *f* marking and a 'LN' (Lento) instruction with an arrow pointing to the right. The score uses various musical notations including slurs, fingerings, and dynamic markings to guide the performer.

Scherzino

Dennis Alexander
(b. 1947)



Keys to this piece:



Pay careful attention to the composer's very specific articulation; play on the fingertips for a crisp staccato and listen for a smooth legato when needed.



Let your body dance with the music to bring out the playful character of the piece.



Listen for a good balance between the hands; the accompaniment should be two dynamic levels softer than the melody.

*

Presto (♩ = 152–176)

crisp, rhythmic gesture

1 2 3 1 2 1

mf It's a joke, what a joke, and I'm hav-ing lots of fun. I just love to play this ver - y bounc - y

p $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$

LN →

4

2 1 2 1 1

piece. Then I

4

7

1 4 2 1 2 *p*₁³

play le - ga - to, watch me bounce now, play le - ga - to, get - ting loud - er,

f

5 1

now my left hand

10

2 3 1 2 2 4 2

now here's the joke, play soft and bounce,

p

2 2 1

sings out loud - ly, get - ting loud - er.

* Write a word on the blank line that conveys the mood of the music (see page 9).