

Letter from the One at Sea

From the 1820s through the 1880s, about 15 million immigrants sailed over the Atlantic Ocean to the United States. Most were English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish and chose farming or fishing in the Northeast. Others emigrated to cities like Baltimore, Boston, New York and Philadelphia where they tended to settle in neighborhoods based on their country of origin. The changing moods and Old World character of Letter from the One at Sea reflect emotional descriptions in a letter to loved ones back home.

Tom Gerou

Andante (♩ = 88)

mf

simile

5

10

p *f*

15

p

LH

A Beacon in the Fog

Cape Elizabeth, Maine, about five miles southeast of Portland Harbor, was named in honor of the daughter of King James I and Queen Anne of Denmark. In 1828 two 65-foot lighthouses were built at Cape Elizabeth to help mark the entrance to Portland Harbor. As ships approached, mariners would visually line up the two towers to know they were on course. The lights were considered among the most important on the Atlantic coast. A Beacon in the Fog is composed in Impressionist style to suggest a heavy fog. Diminished seventh chords create a mysterious atmosphere above low motives that evoke foghorns calling out to the in the distance.

Tom Geron

Largo (♩ = 50)

Measures 1-4: *mp*

Measures 5-8: *cresc.*

Measures 9-12: *mf*, *mp*

Seaside Getaway

Cape May, New Jersey, was the first seaside resort in the United States. Travelers were drawn to Cape May as early as the 1700s and continued to come amidst years of storms, fires, pirates and British war ships that wreaked havoc. By 1850, as many as 20 large hotels had been built. Much of Cape May's existing architecture was constructed during the Golden Age and reflects the Victorian style of the period. Seaside Getaway suggests the exciting, bustling resort with its boardwalk and distractions meant to delight travelers from afar.

Tom Geron

Vivace (♩ = 160)

The piano score for "Seaside Getaway" is written for a single piano. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked "Vivace" with a quarter note equal to 160 beats per minute. The first measure is marked with a forte "f" dynamic. The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves (treble and bass). The first system includes fingerings (1, 2, 3, 5) and a slur. The second system includes a measure with a "3" in a box. The third system includes a measure with a "5" in a box. The fourth system includes a measure with a "7" in a box. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the fourth system.