

Piece by Piece

11 ELEMENTARY COLOR PIECES
FOR SOLO PIANO

by Tom Gerou

Book B

Foreword

These original piano solos offer students the opportunity to explore a variety of styles, techniques, and moods. Each piece stays within the elementary level, and the collection explores the various registers of the piano and staccato and legato touches. The pieces require some hands-together playing and harmonic intervals. Challenges include reading accidentals and playing melodies that have intervals from 2nds through 5ths. All of the pieces focus on a melodic or rhythmic idea that enhances a story being told, so lyrics are included to spark imaginative playing. Accompaniments provide rich harmonies and rhythmic motion, although each piece is playable as a solo without the accompaniment.

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Squeaky Clean

Moderately fast, bubbly

Tom Gerou

The main piano score is written for a grand piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The tempo is 'Moderately fast, bubbly'. The score includes fingerings (1, 3, 5, 4) and dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*). The lyrics are: 'I like to scrub with a soap from my head to toes, pre - fer - ring lav - en - der sham - poo that makes hair glow. I would just lay in - side the bath - tub 'till noon. All my ac - cou - tre - ments* are lined up in the room.'

**Accoutrements* are accessory items of clothing or equipment.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately fast, bubbly

The optional duet accompaniment is written for two staves: Right Hand (RH) and Left Hand (LH). The RH part is in 4/4 time and features a melody with fingerings (4, 2, 5, 1, 5, 1, 4, 2) and dynamic markings (*mf*). The LH part is in 4/4 time and features a bass line with fingerings (5, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1) and dynamic markings (*mf*). The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, and 13.

The Big Escape

Tom Gerou

Moderately, trudgingly

5

Old gray el - e - phant

mf

3

4

5

stomp - ing on ce - ment.

9

He does not be - long,

2

in a - mongst the throng,

13

f

on the bus - y streets of New York Cit - y.

4

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave lower.)

Moderately, trudgingly (in two)

5

1.

2.

9

3.

1.

13

mf

1

2

5

1

5

The Top of the Skyscraper

Tom Gerou

Moderately fast

f Take a jour - ney to the view - ing deck.

Look - ing down to the ground, cars are but a speck.

mf In the wind, ner - vous grin, way up on the top.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately fast

mf

mp

Roaming Drone

Tom Gerou

With motion

mf There goes a - noth - er drone fly - ing through the air,

zip - ping a - long, I see, with - out much care.

I hope there's not a cam - 'ra slot.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

With motion

mp

Swiss Echoes

Tom Gerou

Moderate waltz tempo

mf 3 1

“Yo - del - oh - lay - ee - hee - aye.” On their sleighs,

1 3

5

1 3

moun - tain - eers sing all day.

4

9

3

Why do they yo - del? Just ask, and they'll say:

1 1

13

4

“This is how we like to play.” (“Like to play.”)

4 1 2

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderate waltz tempo

RH 4 3 5

LH *mp* 5

5

9 13 2 1

Watch Out for Popcorn

Tom Gerou

Lively

f “Don’t dare eat pop-corn in that mov-ie seat. You’ll be sor-ry!”

mf so my den-tist says. Brac-es broke a-gain.

f “Such a thing does not help you, so a-void crunch-ing ker-nals.”

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

f so my den-tist says. Brac-es broke a-gain. Such a thing does not help you, so a-void crunch-ing ker-nals.

Quick march tempo

5

9

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Quick march tempo (in two)

The musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree" and is written for a piano. It consists of two systems of music, each with a right-hand (RH) and left-hand (LH) part. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system continues the piece, featuring a triplet in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as fingerings and articulation marks.

Game Master

Tom Gerou

Moderately fast, hyper

First system of the musical score. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The treble staff has a melody with three measures, each containing a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "If it's us two, I'll play with you. This game is". The bass staff has a simple accompaniment of half notes. The first measure of the bass staff is marked with a "1" below it. The second measure is marked with a "2" below it. The third measure is marked with a "3" below it. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed above the first measure of the treble staff.

Second system of the musical score. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The treble staff has a melody with four measures. The lyrics are: "to - tal - ly cool! Af - ter we start,". The bass staff has a simple accompaniment of half notes. The first measure of the bass staff is marked with a "2" below it. The second measure is marked with a "2" below it. The third measure is marked with a "2" below it. The fourth measure is marked with a "2" below it. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed above the first measure of the treble staff.

Third system of the musical score. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The treble staff has a melody with four measures. The lyrics are: "'cause I've got heart, I might just show you the rules." The bass staff has a simple accompaniment of half notes. The first measure of the bass staff is marked with a "2" below it. The second measure is marked with a "2" below it. The third measure is marked with a "2" below it. The fourth measure is marked with a "2" below it. The dynamic marking *f* is placed above the first measure of the treble staff. The word *Fine* is written at the end of the system.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately fast, hyper

Optional Duet Accompaniment. It consists of a single staff in 3/4 time. The staff is divided into two parts: RH (Right Hand) and LH (Left Hand). The RH part has a melody with six measures. The LH part has a simple accompaniment of half notes. The first measure of the LH part is marked with a "5" below it. The second measure is marked with a "2" below it. The third measure is marked with a "5" below it. The fourth measure is marked with a "3" below it. The fifth measure is marked with a "1" below it. The sixth measure is marked with a "1" below it. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed above the first measure of the RH part. The word *Fine* is written at the end of the system.

The Wild Ride

Tom Gerou

Moderately fast

5 3

f Buck - le in, with a grin. Read - y, set, go!

4

5

3 3

Up and down the clunk - y track, in - to the un - known.

1 3

9

4 3

mf All the turns are su - per rough— jos - tled, tossed, thrown.

2 3 3

13

5 4 4

Roll - er coast - ers are a blast, *f* rush - ing like cy - clones!

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately fast

RH LH

mf

5 3 1 2 1 2 1 5 4 1 3 1 4 2 5 1

9 13 5 4 5 1 4 1

mp *mf*

Oath to the Earth

Tom Gerou

Moderately

mf One day you will see

5

what the world can be.

9

All it takes is gen - tle care.

13

Treat all the plan - et like no one's been there.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately

mp One day you will see

The Mummy

Tom Gerou

Moderately, with mystery

Musical score for piano, 4/4 time, key of D major. The score is divided into three systems, each with a measure number in a box (5, 9, and 13). The lyrics are: "Have you ev - er seen a mum - my late at night, wrapped in dust - y lin - en, drag - ging in the pale moon-light? Stum - bl - ing quite awk - ward - ly—". The first system starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The third system has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave lower.)

Musical score for optional duet accompaniment, 4/4 time, key of D major. The score is divided into two systems, each with a measure number in a box (9 and 13). The tempo/mood is "Moderately, with mystery". The first system starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.