

Piece by Piece

11 LATE ELEMENTARY COLOR PIECES
FOR SOLO PIANO

by Tom Gerou

Foreword

These original piano solos offer students the opportunity to explore a variety of styles, techniques, and moods. Each piece stays within the late elementary level, and the collection explores the various registers of the piano and chromaticism. The pieces require coordination between the hands while avoiding single-hand triads. Challenges include reading in the keys of G major and F major, playing melodic and harmonic intervals up to a 7th, pedaling, and more frequent hand shifts. 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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Numero Uno

Tom Gerou

Moderately

Some-times I would like to be the one who's first.

5

Most times I come in sec - ond, oth - er times in third.

9

If I try much hard - er, I may just suc - ceed.

13

No doubt, with per - se - ver - ance, there is not de - feat!

Fine

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately

RH

LH

mf

9

Fine

Lure of the Mermaids

Tom Gerou

Flowing

mf Of - ten told tales by tough men who sail, 'bout

beau - ti - ful wom - en, each with a fish tail,

mer - maids of lore call ships to rough shores, be -

guil - ing with mag - i - cal en - cores.

rit. last time

Fine

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Flowing

mp

guil - ing with mag - i - cal en - cores.

rit. last time

Fine

The Brand-New You

Tom Gerou

Moderately

3 2

mf You might just try a wack - y hair - do,

1
5

5

3

slip on a pair of real - ly wild shoes,

1
4

9

5 4 4

then choose a shirt that's look - in' real - ly cool.

1
5

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately

RH

LH

mp

5

5

9

5

Black Widow's Wedding

Tom Gerou

Moderately

2 3 4

f The wed - ding is a - bout to start.

5

Detailed description: This system shows the first two measures of the piece. The treble clef staff contains a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The bass clef staff has a whole note G3. Fingerings 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the first three notes. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed below the first measure. The lyrics 'The wed - ding is a - bout to start.' are written below the treble staff.

3 2 4 4

A - cross the web, the bride will dart. She's wear - ing black,

4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 3, 4, and 5. The treble clef staff continues the melody with notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3. The bass clef staff has a whole note G3. Fingerings 3, 2, 4, and 4 are indicated above the notes. The lyrics 'A - cross the web, the bride will dart. She's wear - ing black,' are written below the treble staff. A measure rest is shown in the bass clef for measure 4.

6 4 2 1

with silk - en hat. She's a stun - ning vi - sion in her gown.

2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6, 7, and 8. The treble clef staff continues the melody with notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3. The bass clef staff has a whole note G3. Fingerings 4, 2, and 1 are indicated above the notes. The lyrics 'with silk - en hat. She's a stun - ning vi - sion in her gown.' are written below the treble staff. A measure rest is shown in the bass clef for measure 7. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed below the first measure of this system.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately

RH LH *mf*

3 3 3 1 1 3 1 1 3 4

5 6 5 4 2

Detailed description: This section provides an optional duet accompaniment. It is written for two hands: Right Hand (RH) and Left Hand (LH). The RH part is in the treble clef and consists of a series of chords and single notes. The LH part is in the bass clef and consists of a series of chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated above the notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed below the first measure. The tempo marking 'Moderately' is at the top left of this section.

Rich and Famous

Tom Gerou

Moderately, carefree

mf You could be - come fa - mous, known shore to shore.
If you save your pen - nies, you might get rich.

3 3

2

5

Ev - 'ry - one will hound you. That is for sure.
Ev - 'ry - thing that's want - ed, eas - y and quick.

3 4 3 2 1

3 2

9

f You might not know you'll want e - ven more.
You'll al - ways get things lick - e - ty - split.

1 3 5 4 3 2

1/5 1/5 1/4 4

to Coda ⊕

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately, carefree

RH
LH
mp 1

4 1 5 2 4 1 5 4 1

4 2 5 4 1

9

4 3 2

to Coda ⊕

mf

What Is Blue?

Tom Gerou

Moderately, with emotion

The main piano score is written in 3/4 time with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "What is blue? Is the sky in spring? Deep blue sea. Third in R. G. B. In between violet and green. Is this true?" The piano accompaniment features chords and simple melodic lines, with some triplets and fingerings indicated.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately, with emotion

The optional duet accompaniment is written for two hands: Right Hand (RH) and Left Hand (LH). The RH part is in 3/4 time and features a melodic line with triplets and various fingerings. The LH part is in 3/4 time and features a bass line with chords and simple melodic lines. The score is divided into three systems, with measures 5, 9, and 13 marked. The dynamic is piano (*p*).

Seaside Scavenger

Tom Gerou

Moderately, with a Latin feel

The main piano score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "A gen - tle breeze, some green sea - weed, a sun - ny beach with lots of sea - gulls, sand crabs to see, a drift - wood tree. I'll look for sea - shells; fos - sils I need." The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingering numbers (1-5) for both hands.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately, with a Latin feel

The optional duet accompaniment is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It is divided into two systems, each with a right-hand (RH) and left-hand (LH) staff. The RH part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the LH part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The score includes fingering numbers and measure markers (5, 9, 13).

The Gentle Giant

Tom Gerou

Moderately slow, expressively

mf In the for - est, there lives a man stand - ing as tall as a
 tree.
mp All a-lone there in the hin-ter-land,* not a soul he
 sees.
mf Hence he came from a king - dom grand,

3
 3/5 1/5 1/5
 4 5 2 1/5 1/5 1/5
 8 5 2 3/5 1/5

*Hinterland is an area lying beyond what is visible or known.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderately slow, expressively

RH
 LH
mp
 1
 3
 1 2
 4
 3
 1
 2
 1 3
 8
 1 2
 1 3
 11
 1 2
 4
 5
 1
 4 2
 1 3
 2
 3
 2
 1
mf

The Leprechaun

Tom Gerou

Gently, with motion

Musical score for piano accompaniment of "The Leprechaun". The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a *mp* dynamic and includes the lyrics "A bon - ny lass with her lad". The second system (measures 5-8) includes "hap - pened up - on a small, beard-ed lep - re - chaun. At". The third system (measures 9-12) includes "rain - bow's end, his in - tent" and features a *mf* dynamic marking. The fourth system (measures 13-16) includes "was to bur - y his trea - sure be - fore the dawn." and features a *mp* dynamic marking. Fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents and slurs) are provided throughout the score.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Teacher plays one octave higher.)

Gently, with motion

Musical score for optional duet accompaniment. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of two systems of music. The first system (measures 1-8) includes the lyrics "A bon - ny lass with her lad hap - pened up - on a small, beard-ed lep - re - chaun. At". The second system (measures 9-16) includes "rain - bow's end, his in - tent was to bur - y his trea - sure be - fore the dawn." Fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents and slurs) are provided throughout the score.

Feelin' Terrific

Tom Gerou

Moderate swing tempo

mf I feel ter - rif - ic for a rea - son that I think I'll keep to my -

4 self. Just be - cause my mood is spe - cial, I don't real - ly want it

7 shared with an - y - one else. Won't dis - cuss why it is that to - day

10 I feel great. It is quite hard to ex - plain! *f*

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Moderate swing tempo (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

RH *mp* 2

4

7

10

mf

Of Pirates and Gold

Tom Gerou

Quickly

mf Pi - rates were known to be bold. They went wher -

5 ev - er they heard there was gold. Sail - ing the

9 Ca - rib - be - an 'til there was seen, a -

13 hoy, a ship to an - noy.

Detailed description: This block contains the main piano accompaniment for the piece. It is written for a grand piano in treble and bass clefs, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Quickly'. The music is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number in a box (5, 9, 13). The first system includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a final measure in the fourth system.

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays one octave higher.)

Quickly

RH
LH
mp

9 13

Detailed description: This block provides an optional duet accompaniment for the piece. It is written for a grand piano in bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Quickly'. The music is divided into two systems, each starting with a measure number in a box (9, 13). The first system includes a dynamic marking of *mp* and a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a final measure in the second system.