

CHARACTER PIECES

in Romantic Style

15 Short Piano Solos

MARTHA MIER

Character pieces are short piano works that most often communicate a single emotion or idea, such as the joy of spring or the image of a child falling asleep. Composers first began writing character pieces in the 19th century, during the Romantic period, as a personal, inward-looking form of musical expression, on a smaller scale than the lengthy and highly structured sonatas of the Classical period. Many of the Romantic-period composers created character pieces. Important collections include the *Scenes from Childhood*, Op. 15, by Robert Schumann and the *Songs Without Words* by Felix Mendelssohn. My goal in writing *Character Pieces in Romantic Style* was to create new character pieces carefully graded for students that emulate this important art form from the Romantic period. Some of the pieces are bold in character, while others are lyrical and introspective. These moods are suggested by each title. I hope students enjoy exploring these pieces and use them to develop musical, imaginative playing.

Martha Mier

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DRIFTING BALLOONS

Martha Mier

Peacefully (♩ = 88)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Peacefully' with a quarter note equal to 88 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *mp*. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 1, 5, 1, 5 and octaves marked *8va*. The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes, including fingerings 5, 1 3 5, 1 3 5, 5, 1 2 5, and 5.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The right hand continues the melodic line with fingerings 1, 4, 2, 5, 1, 2, 3, 1. The left hand has fingerings 1 2 4 5, 5 2 1 3, 5 2, and 5.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The dynamics are marked *mp*. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 1, 5, 3, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 1, 4. The left hand has fingerings 5, 5, 5, 5, 5.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 2, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 1, 5. The left hand has fingerings 5, 2, 5, 2, 5, 2, 5, 2.

AGITATED

Martha Mier

Quickly (♩ = 104)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 2/4 time. The right hand has whole rests. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes: G2 (finger 5), A2 (finger 5), B2 (finger 5), C3 (finger 5), D3 (finger 5), E3 (finger 5), F3 (finger 5), G3 (finger 5), A3 (finger 5), B3 (finger 5), C4 (finger 5), D4 (finger 5), E4 (finger 5), F4 (finger 5), G4 (finger 5), A4 (finger 5), B4 (finger 5), C5 (finger 5). The dynamic is *mf*.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The right hand has a melodic line with fingerings: 3, 4, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 2. The left hand continues the eighth-note sequence. The dynamic is *mp*.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The right hand has a melodic line with fingerings: 3, 1, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 3, 4, 1, 5, 1. The left hand continues the eighth-note sequence. The dynamic is *f*.

Slower (♩ = 80)

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand has a melodic line with fingerings: 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The left hand has chords: G2 (finger 1), A2 (finger 2), B2 (finger 5); G2 (finger 1), A2 (finger 2), B2 (finger 4); G2 (finger 1), A2 (finger 2), B2 (finger 5); G2 (finger 1), A2 (finger 2), B2 (finger 5). The dynamic is *mp*.

RAINBOW SHIMMER

Martha Mier

Dreamily (♩ = 120)

mp

1 5 1 1

5 5 5 5

LH 2 LH over

5

mf

1 1 1 5 4 2 5 1

5 5 5 5 1 3 1 5

9

mp

4 4

1 3 5 1 2 5 2

A JOYOUS OCCASION

Martha Mier

Happily (♩ = 108)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as 108 beats per minute. The first measure is marked *mf*. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in the first measure, followed by a quarter note (C5) in the second, and a quarter note (B4) in the third. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The right hand continues with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 5, followed by a quarter note (C5) in measure 6, and a quarter note (B4) in measure 7. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 9-13. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 9, followed by a quarter note (C5) in measure 10, and a quarter note (B4) in measure 11. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic marking changes to *mp* in measure 11.

Musical notation for measures 14-17. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 14, followed by a quarter note (C5) in measure 15, and a quarter note (B4) in measure 16. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic marking changes to *mf* in measure 16. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 17.