

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The number pi (π) represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter and is approximately equal to 3.14. Pi plays important roles in geometry, physics, and countless other areas of math and science. An irrational number, its decimal expansion is nonrepeating and nonterminating:

$\pi \approx 3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510582097 \dots$

Pi has fascinated mathematicians for thousands of years. Only the first handful of digits were known in antiquity, but today's computers can accurately calculate pi to trillions of decimal places. Pi is also beloved among number enthusiasts, many of whom celebrate "Pi Day" every March 14 by reciting its digits from memory!

In this piece, each note of the major scale is assigned a digit and used to spell out pi to 56 decimal places. The numbers shown above the piano staves are digits in the never-ending sequence that unfolds to form this famous mathematical constant.

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A PIECE OF PI

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano*

Words and Music by
PEPPER CHOPLIN

With heartfelt melodrama ($\text{♩} \approx 66.14159 \dots$)

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

With heartfelt melodrama ($\text{♩} \approx 66.14159 \dots$)

mp

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5 3 5 9 7

π

mp

If we give num - bers each a note like

mp

9 3 2 3 8 4 6

* Also available for S.A.B. (52212).
PianoTrax accompaniment available (A-00016631).
Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

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5

poco rit.

a tempo

1 2 3 4 5, then we can sing a mel - o - dy whose

poco rit.

a tempo

7

mf

poco rit.

notes will fol - low pi.

mf

mf

poco rit.

9

a tempo

3 point 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5

a tempo

11 *poco rit.*

3 5 8 9 7* 9 3 2 3 8 4

poco rit.

13 *a tempo*

6 2 6 4 3 3 8 5 2

a tempo

15

9 5 0* 2 8

* Pronounce “seven” and “zero” as two syllables.

17 *poco rit.* *mp*

8 ... As the

mp

poco rit.

19 *a tempo*

cir - cle goes a - round, we give the num - bers sound. So

cir - cle goes a - round and round, we give the num - bers sound. So

a tempo
mp

21 *mf*

now we will sing pi___ in a round:

mf

mf

24

23 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

mf 3 point 1 4

3 point 1 4 1

rit. *a tempo*

25

1 5 9 2 6 5 3 5

5 9 2 6 5 5 8 9 7

27 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

8 7 9 3 2 3 8 4 6 2 6 4

9 3 2 3 8 4 6 2 6 4

poco rit. *a tempo*

29

31 *rit.* *a tempo*

33 34 *mf*

Now that we've found a

35

way to give it sound, we'd glad - ly sing e - ter - nal -

37

f

ly. Pi goes _ on and on, be - yond the

f

39

mf

length of an - y song, so now here's a

mf

41

“piece” of pi:

R.H. notes continue pi to 56 decimal places

43 *rit.* *mp* *a tempo* *decresc.*

For - ev - er pi.

mp *decresc.*

For - ev - er pi.

6 9 3 9 9 7 5 1 0 5 8 *8va* 2 0

rit. *a tempo* *mp* *decresc.*

Red.

45 *p* *fade to nothing*

p *fade to nothing*

p *pp*

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