

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.

A PIECE OF PI

for S.A.B. voices and piano*

Words and Music by
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With heartfelt melodrama (♩ ≈ 66.14159 ...)

SOPRANO
ALTO

BARITONE

PIANO

With heartfelt melodrama (♩ ≈ 66.14159 ...)

mp

mp

mp

If we give num - bers each a note like

mp

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

3 2 3 8 4 6

* Also available for S.A.T.B. (52211).
PianoTrax accompaniment available (A-00016631).
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5 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

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

7 *mf* *poco rit.*

notes will fol - low pi.

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

13 *a tempo*

6 2 6 4 5 3 8 3 2

15

7 9 5 0* 2 8

poco rit.

a tempo

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

17 *poco rit.* *mp*

8 ... As the

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

25

1 5 9 2 6 5 3 5

5 9 2 6 5 5 8 9 7

27 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

8 9 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

Musical score for measures 29-30. The score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Measure 29 features a melody in the treble clef with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, and a half note D4. Measure 30 continues the melody in the treble clef with notes E5, D5, C5, B4, and a half note A4. The bass clef has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, and a half note D4. Fingering numbers are provided for both hands: Treble (3, 3, 8, 3, 2, 7, 9) and Bass (3, 3, 8, 3, 2, 7, 9, 5, 0).

31

*rit.**a tempo*

Musical score for measures 31-32. Measure 31 features a melody in the treble clef with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, and a half note D4. Measure 32 continues the melody in the treble clef with notes E5, D5, C5, B4, and a half note A4. The bass clef has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, and a half note D4. Fingering numbers are provided for both hands: Treble (5, 0, 2, 8, 8...) and Bass (2, 8, 8...). The tempo marking *rit.* is present for measure 31 and *a tempo* for measure 32.

33

34

*mf**mf*

Now that we've found a

Musical score for measures 33-34. Measure 33 features a melody in the treble clef with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, and a half note D4. Measure 34 continues the melody in the treble clef with notes E5, D5, C5, B4, and a half note A4. The bass clef has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, and a half note D4. Fingering numbers are provided for both hands: Treble (5, 0, 2, 8, 8...) and Bass (2, 8, 8...). The tempo marking *rit.* is present for measure 31 and *a tempo* for measure 32. The dynamic marking *mf* is present for measure 34. The lyrics "Now that we've found a" are written below the melody in measure 34.

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.

rit.

a tempo
mp

decresc.

Ped.

45

*p**fade to nothing*

p

fade to nothing

p

pp