

# The hippopotamus song

Words by Michael Flanders, Music by Donald Swann

Heavily (♩ = 56)

Flanders and Swann usually wrote their songs at the piano and tested the results on friends, relatives and even passing window cleaners. The chorus of this song, also known as 'Mud, Glorious Mud', includes the words 'Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood!'. Translations have been made into French, German, Russian, Tongan, Indonesian, Icelandic and Welsh.

This tune might look rather long but you should find, in playing the piece, that as well as having humour it moves you along. Notice that the metronome mark suggests a one-in-a-bar rhythm, with the 'click' being on the first beat of the bar. You can add a comic touch to the bass line at bars 7 and 8, those *tenuto* markings suggest the heaviness of the hippo. There's a chance to create a mood change in the section starting at bar 16.

# Match of the day

Rhet Stoller

Brightly (♩ = 92)

The musical score is written for piano in 2/2 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a forte (f) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5 above the notes in the right hand. The bass line starts with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system starts at measure 4. The third system starts at measure 8 and includes a fingering of 2 above a note in the right hand. The fourth system starts at measure 12 and ends with a double bar line. Fingerings of 3, 2, 1, 2, and 1 are indicated below the bass line in the final measures.

This is the theme tune to the BBC's long-running football programme of the same name. Football has featured many times in song recordings over recent years, with at least fourteen clubs having had a total of over thirty chart hits. There have also been two number one hits by England Squads.

Most people will recognize this tune in the first four notes! The melody has quite a punchy rhythm and the whole piece should sound brisk and purposeful. Make sure you can keep the pace and don't stumble over the ties, at bars 13 and 15.

# Cockles and mussels

*Traditional*

**Moderately** (♩ = 120)

*mf*

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

5 3 2 5 3 2 4 1

5 1 2 4

This traditional Irish song is also sometimes called 'Molly Malone', of whom the song is about. The song tells of how Molly sold cockles and mussels through the streets of Dublin until she died of a fever – then her ghost carried on. No one seems to know the origins of the song.

The rhythm in this tune is very important. Look at the first six notes of the melody and how it jumps off the down beat of the second bar. That really is the essential building block for the whole piece. It has the characteristic 'snap' of a folk song but here needs to be kept fairly light.