

Messing About in a Boat

“Ground Swell” (Hopper)

Pam Wedgwood

This Hopper painting is one of my favourites. The blue sky, the rolling sea and relaxed figures on the boat offer a sense of calm and serenity. It inspired me to write a relaxed, fun and swinging piece that mimics the rocking and splashing of a bunch of friends messing about in a boat.

“There’s nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.” — Kenneth Grahame

In swing tempo – trying to keep afloat! (♩ = 100) $\text{♩} = \overset{\frown}{\text{♩}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♩}}$

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of five systems of music. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. The second system continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third system starts at measure 10 and includes a fifth finger (5) marking. The fourth system starts at measure 15 and includes a forte (*f*) dynamic and triplet markings. The fifth system starts at measure 19 and includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and triplet markings. The score concludes with a repeat sign and a final cadence.

Moonlight Bossa

"Lighthouse" (Getty images)

Pam Wedgwood

This piece was inspired by the unique colours used in this vibrant painting. The piece is written in a bossa nova style so play it in a bright and breezy way with lots of energy.

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank! / Here will we sit and let the sounds of music Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night / Become the touches of sweet harmony." — William Shakespeare

In a bright bossa nova style

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five systems of music. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece is marked 'In a bright bossa nova style'.

- System 1 (Measures 1-5):** Starts with a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand has chords and eighth notes, with fingerings 3 1, 5 3, and 3 1 above the first three measures. The left hand has a steady eighth-note bass line. Dynamics range from *mp* to *mf*.
- System 2 (Measures 6-9):** Measure 6 is marked with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The right hand features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed eighth notes and chords, with fingerings 1 2 1 4 3 2 above. The left hand continues with eighth notes. Dynamics range from *ff* to *mp*.
- System 3 (Measures 10-14):** Measure 10 is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has chords and eighth notes. The left hand has eighth notes. Dynamics range from *f* to *mp*.
- System 4 (Measures 15-19):** Measure 15 is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand has chords and eighth notes. The left hand has eighth notes. Dynamics range from *mp* to *ff*.
- System 5 (Measures 20-24):** Measure 20 is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has chords and eighth notes. The left hand has eighth notes. Dynamics range from *mf* to *ff*. The piece ends with fingerings 4 2 1 above the final measure.