Preface

I wrote this collection of piano solos especially for students in their early piano studies. The pieces explore a variety of harmonic, melodic and rhythmic resources and include a wide range of dynamics, articulations, moods and technical challenges.

I first published ***Just Kidding!*** in 2011. In 2014, it was published by the Frederick Harris Music Company (FHMC) as ***Days of Summer*** as part of the *Composer Library Series*. In 2018, the publication rights were returned to me. I maintained most of the revisions to the pieces recommended by FHMC but, in order to use the original art for the collection, I restored the original title for the book as well as the titles for a few of the individual pieces. Here is a cross-reference of the piece titles that are different in the two publications:

Days of Summer	***Just Kidding!***
Down by the Stream	Snow
On My Skateboard	Mixolydian Bounce
Sunset	A Rainy Day

All other titles are unchanged. I hope you enjoy this collection!

Cover Art by Myles Mathis

Myles Mathis is a self-taught artist who lives in Mission, B.C. Although he has worked in various mediums since childhood, he has focused mainly on watercolours since 1996. His watercolours, which have been exhibited in numerous art shows throughout the Fraser Valley, feature a wide scope of subject material including landscapes, seascapes, animals, and human interest. He has received several awards for his art including B.C. Wildlife Artist of the Year for 2009. He is currently a member of the Mission Arts Council and has been a member of the Mission Arts Association and the Fraser Valley Watermedia Society in Abbotsford.

Many thanks to Myles for painting the cover and drawing the sketches for this collection.

Teresa Richert

Contents

Just Kidding!	Have fun with this piece! The part marked *ad lib*. can be played however you like. Try changing the dynamics and the tempo.	4
Daydreaming	Close your eyes and imagine you are in your favorite place. Make the melody sing out as it switches between the RH and LH.	5
On the Move	What an unusual time signature! It's really just 4 beats followed by 3. You can count the main beats like this: **1** 2 3 4 **1** 2 3.	6
Snow	Have you ever seen very large snowflakes fall from the sky and then melt as they hit the wet ground? Use the *una corda* pedal in the first 8 measures if you like.	7
Can't Catch Me!	Play this piece with a lot of energy. The RH will need to play smoothly while the LH bounces in some places.	8
Far Away	This piece is played entirely on the black keys. Make the RH sing out and keep the LH accompaniment quiet.	9
Into Mischief	The tiny notes in this piece are called grace notes. They are played just before the beat. Play them lightly and put the accent on the main beat.	10
Flying Kites	This piece is played one had at a time (in fact, you could play it all with one hand!) Your teacher can help you find a new fingering for a one-handed performance.	11
Mixolydian Bounce	The Mixolydian mode is the scale from G to G on the white keys of the piano. Play with a lot of energy and make the staccato notes really bounce!	12
A Rainy Day	Not all rainy days are sad but maybe on this day, you had plans to do something special outside. Play expressively and bring out the melody notes on top in the RH.	14
The Chase	The RH on the white keys "chases" the LH on the black keys. Learn this piece slowly and steadily first and then you can try it faster.	15
Notes for Teachers	Features of the pieces	16

Just Kidding!

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Playfully ♩ = 112 - 126

mp

6

poco rit.

ad lib.

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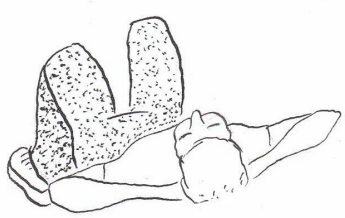

Daydreaming

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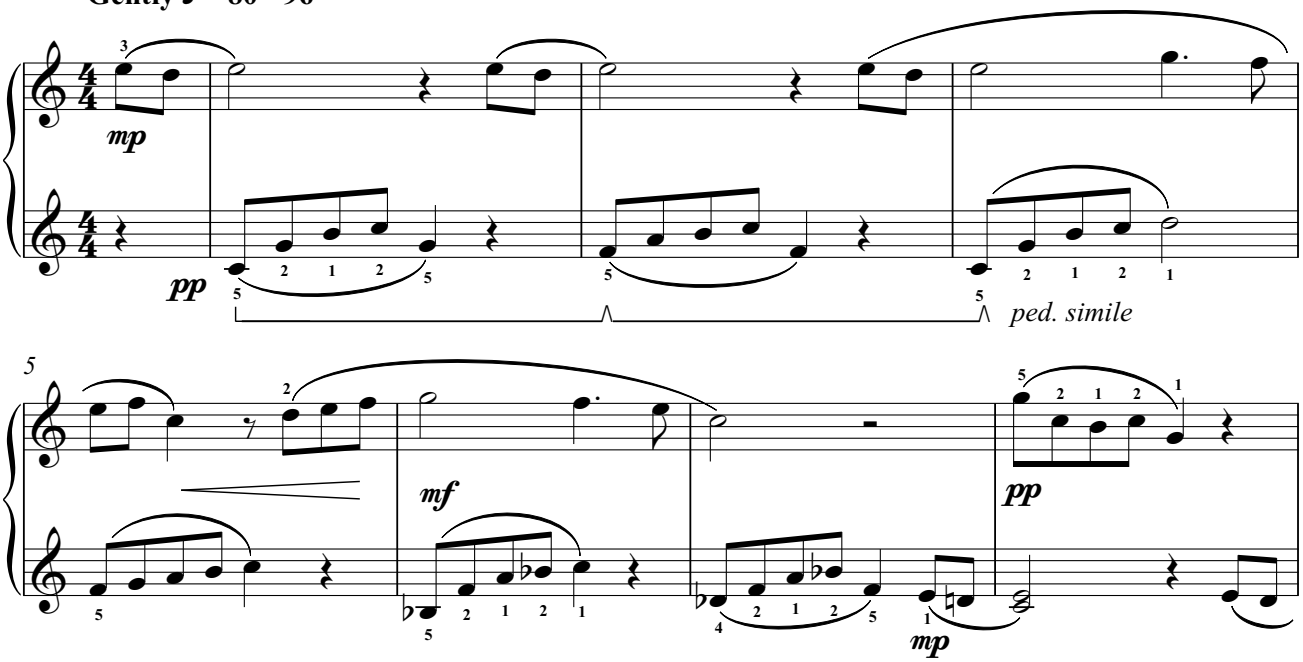
Gently ♩ = 80 - 96



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On the Move

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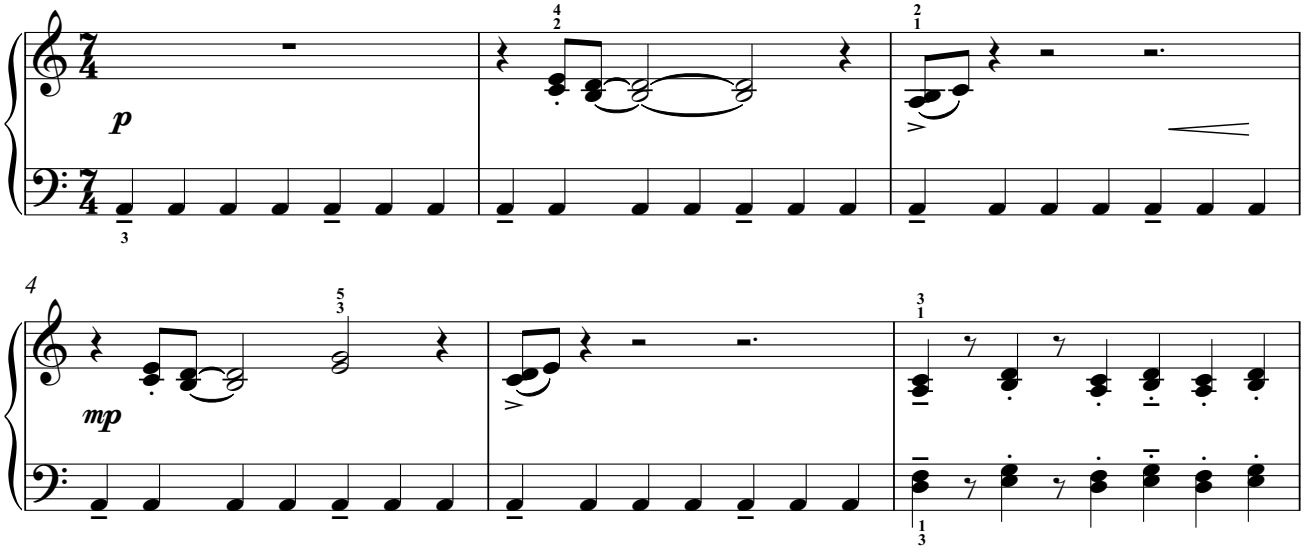
Rhythmically ♩ = 144 - 160



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Snow

Gently ♩ = 160 - 176

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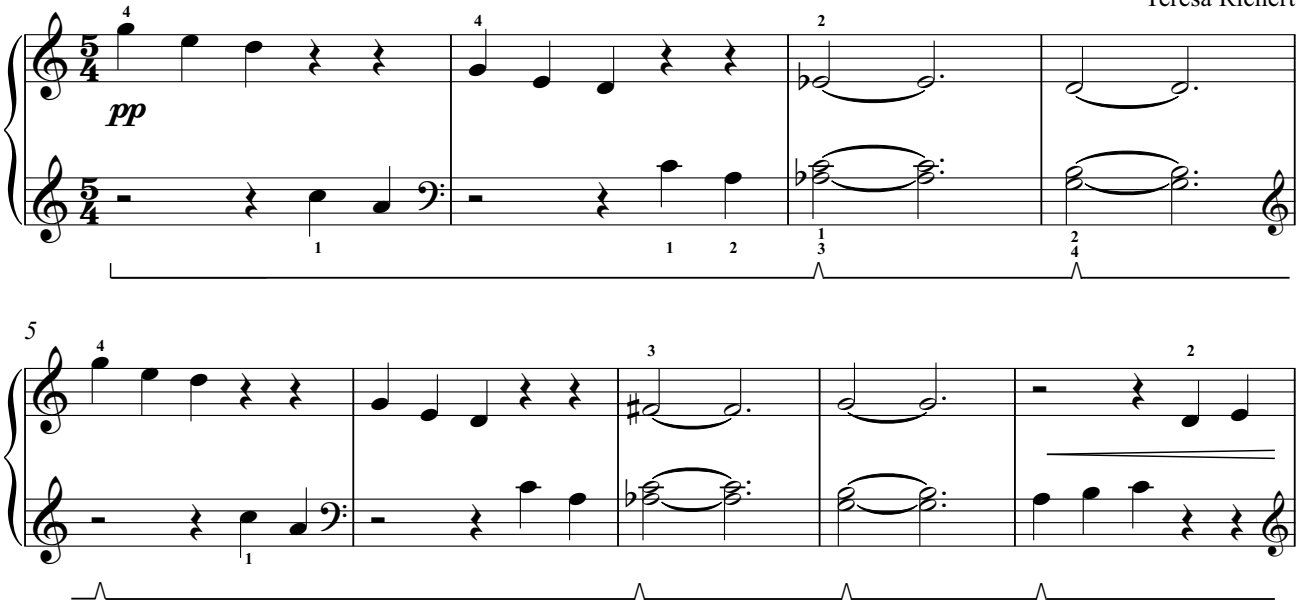

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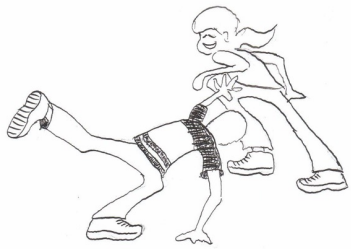

Can't Catch Me!

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Quickly ♩. = 132 - 144

mf

7

p *cresc.*

f

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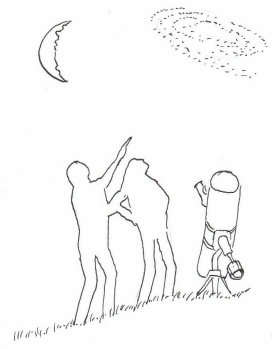

Far Away

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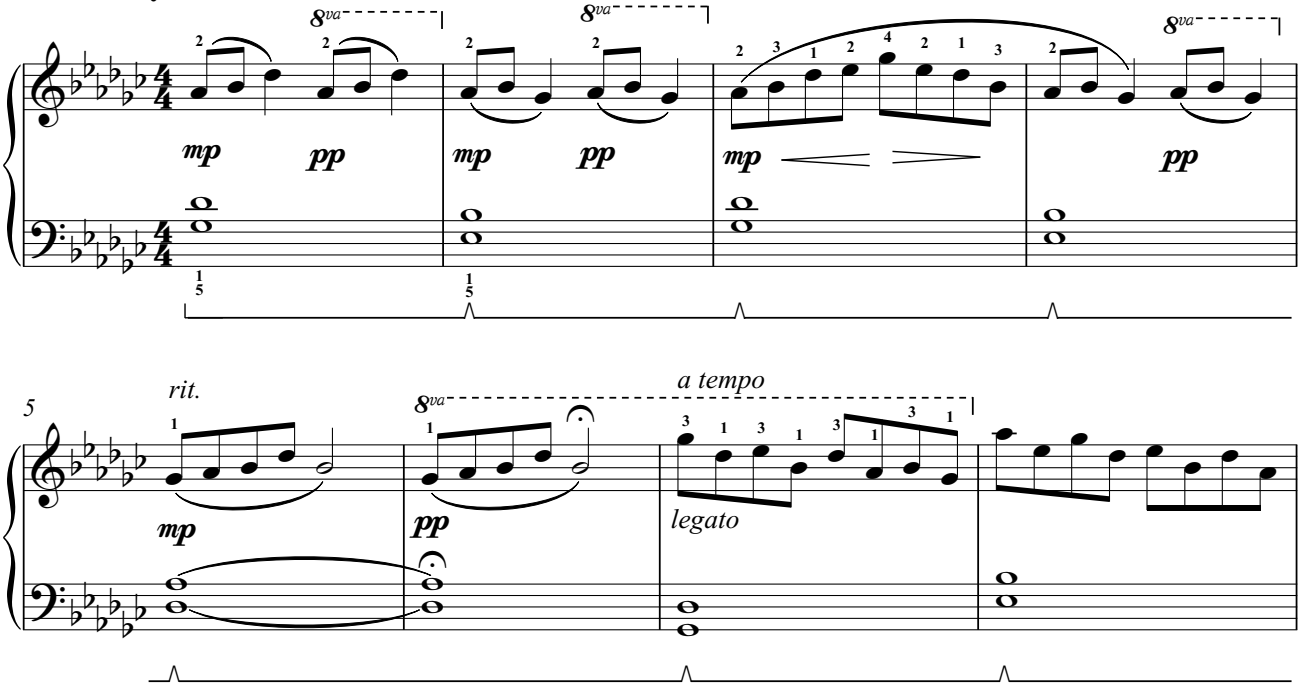
Dreamily ♩ **= 80 - 92**



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Into Mischief

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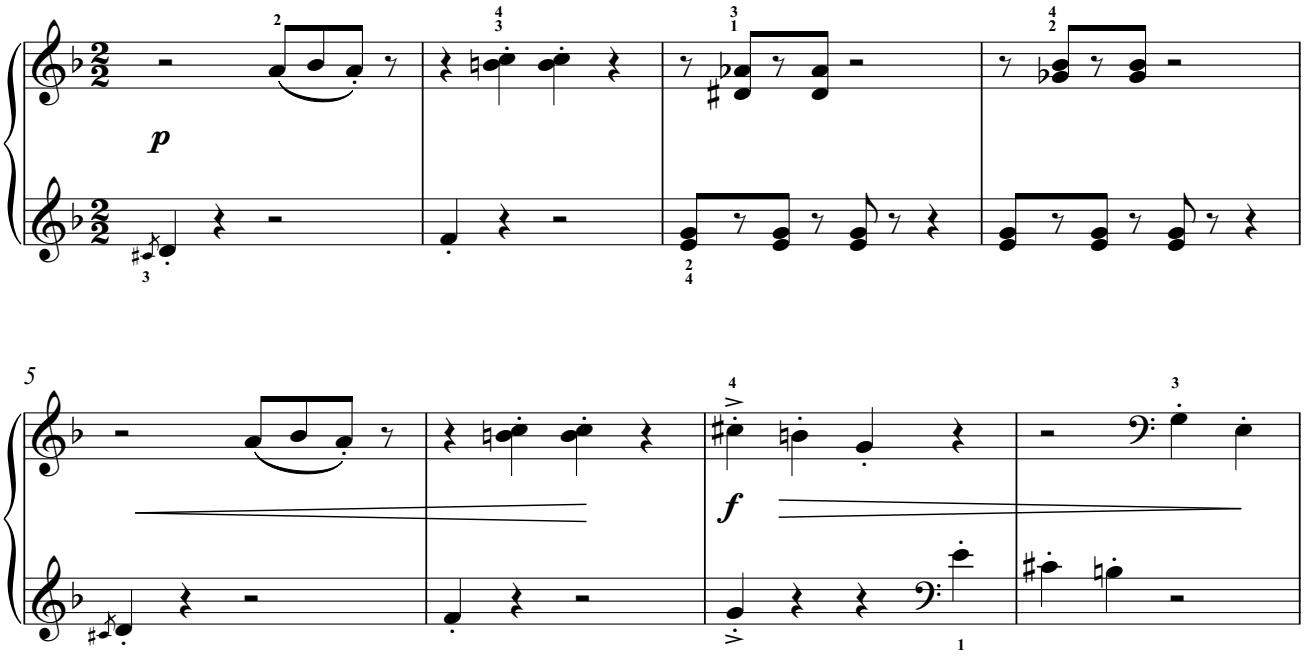
Sneakily ♩ **= 108 - 120**



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Flying Kites

Gently ♩ = 84 - 92

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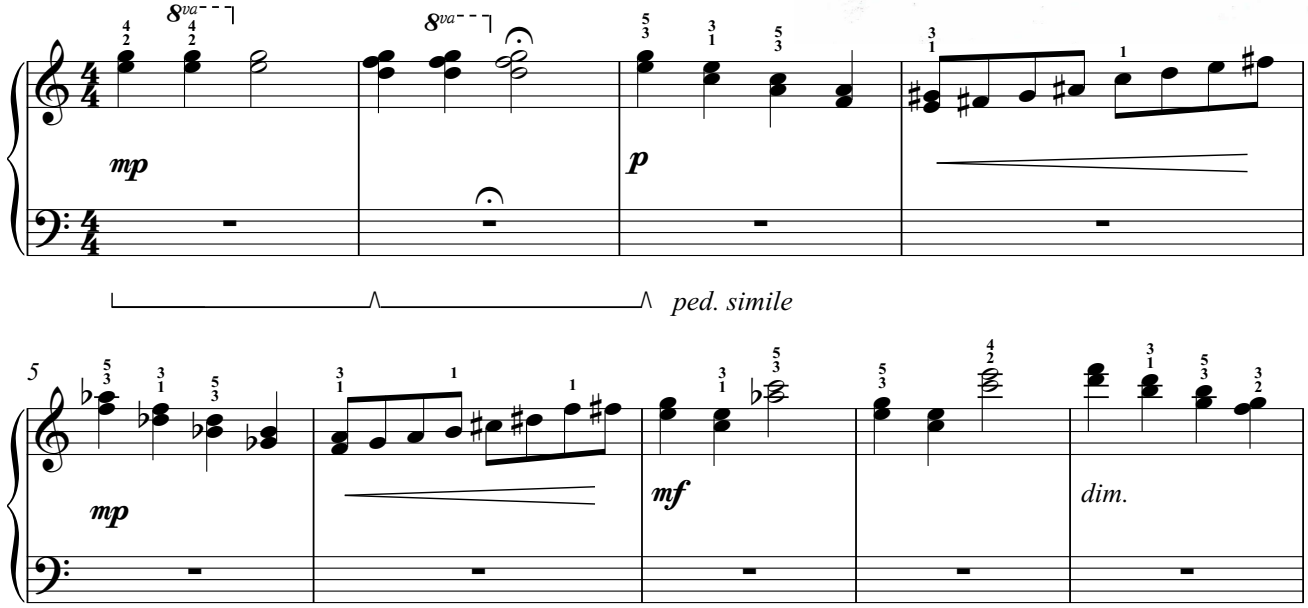

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Mixolydian Bounce

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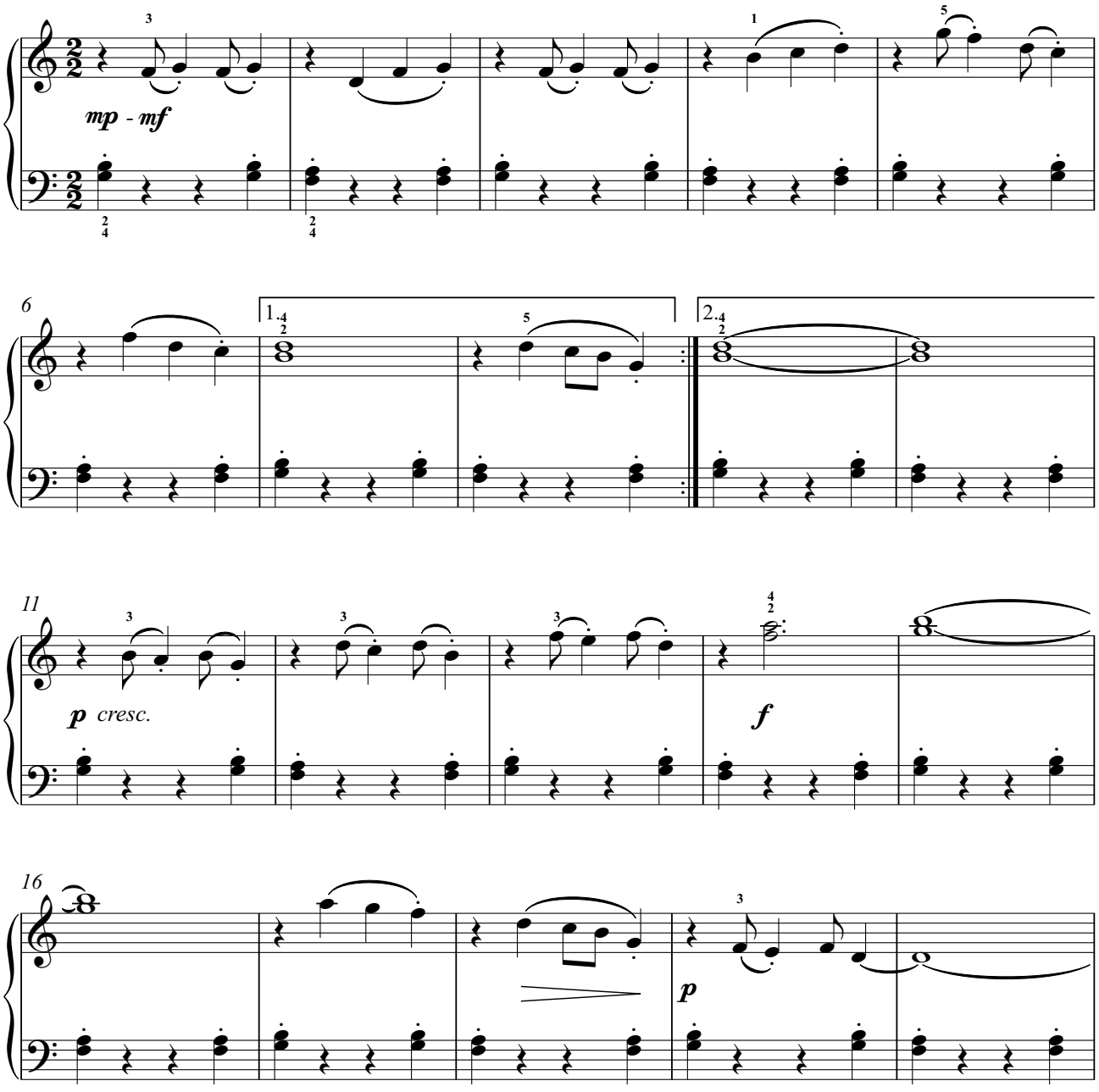
Rhythmically ♩ **= 116 - 126**



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A Rainy Day

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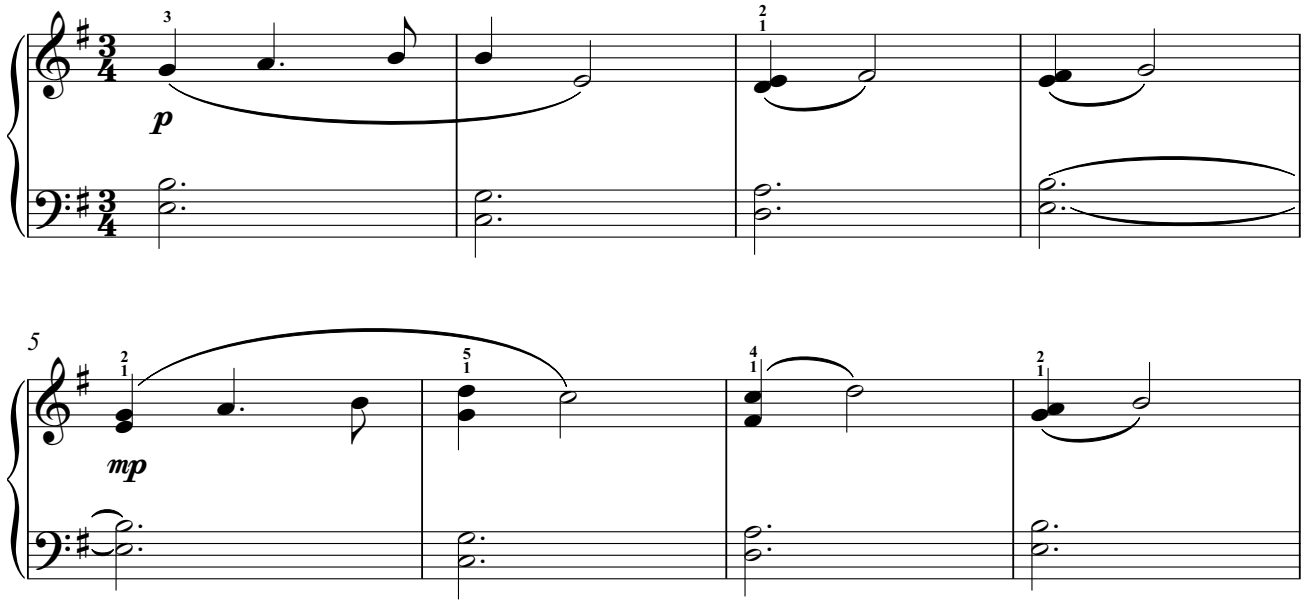
Expressively ♩ = 92 - 100



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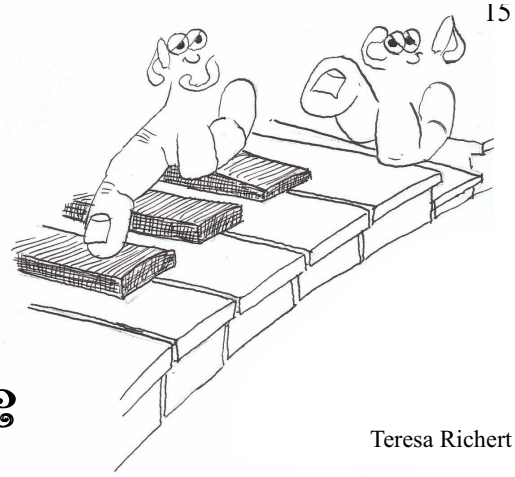

The Chase

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Presto ♩ = 184 - 208

p

5

mp

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Notes for Teachers

Features of the Pieces

Just Kidding! (playful piece) - chromatic scale in similar and contrary motion, parallel 2nds, *ad lib., a tempo, fermata,* changing meter, rests, dynamic range *p – f, legato, staccato.*

Daydreaming (dreamy piece) - cantabile melody switching between hands, balance within the LH, syncopated pedaling, accompaniment split between the hands, tempo change, dotted notes, dynamic range *pp – mf.*

On the Move (jazzy piece) - irregular meter, accents, varied articulation, balance within the RH, parallel 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, and 6ths, dynamic range *p – f.*

Snow (dreamy piece) - irregular meter, syncopated pedaling, hand crossovers, alternating clef signs, balance between and within hands, *rit, fermata.* dynamic range *pp – mp* (optional *una corda*).

Can't Catch Me! (playful piece) - compound meter, grace note, hands moving up the keyboard, treble leger lines above the staff, *8va*, *legato* vs. *staccato,* dynamic range *pp – f.*

Far Away (dreamy piece) - pentatonic scale (black keys), 5ths, slurs, *legato*, syncopated pedaling, rolled chord, *8va*, dynamic range *pp – mp*, echo dynamics, balance between hands, *rit, a tempo.*

Into Mischief (playful piece) - grace notes, accents, *staccato, legato, subito,* hands moving up the keyboard, *8va*, dynamic range *pp – mp.*

Flying Kites (dreamy piece, potential study for LH or RH alone) - whole tone scale, 3rds, treble, bass leger line notes above, syncopated pedaling, *8va, fermata,* dynamic range *pp – mf.*

Mixolydian Bounce (jazzy piece) - syncopated rhythm, ostinato, Mixolydian mode, 3rds, balance between hands, dynamic range *pp – ff.*

A Rainy Day (dreamy piece) - cantabile melody, syncopated pedaling possible at teacher's discretion, dynamic range *pp – mf,* balance between hands and within the RH.

The Chase (speedy piece) - bitonality, parallel 3rds, fast tempo, *accel., rit,* even alternation of LH and RH, pedal for color, dynamic range *pp - ff.*

Teresa Richert