

Preface

When composing pieces for young students, I like to write pieces that I would have enjoyed playing at an early age or teaching to my younger students. Many of my favorites for playing and teaching were written by Canadian composers.

When I first started composing, much of what I wrote arose from improvisation at the piano with some specific musical features in mind. Titles often came later. More recently, I tend to choose interesting age-appropriate subjects as starting points for inspiration and compose a group of pieces around them.

Toy Collection (originally published by the Frederick Harris Music Co. Limited 2015) is an ideal example. My goal was to compose pieces about "timeless toys" -- toys that would have appeal today and for many years to come. I figured that any toys that were popular when my siblings and I were young and are still popular today would likely be around for many more years.

Teresa Richert

Cover illustration by William Kimber

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Blocks

With determination $d = 88 - 100$

Teresa Richert

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment.

System 1:

- Vocal Line:** Written in 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4 (marked with a 3), a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The final measure of the system contains a quarter rest, a half note G4, and a half note F#4.
- Piano Accompaniment:** Written in 4/4 time. The left hand plays a half note C3, a half note D3, and a half note E3. The right hand plays a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. The dynamic marking is *mp*.

System 2:

- Vocal Line:** Written in 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4 (marked with a 5), a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The final measure of the system contains a quarter rest, a half note G4, and a half note F#4.
- Piano Accompaniment:** Written in 4/4 time. The left hand plays a half note C3, a half note D3, and a half note E3. The right hand plays a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. The dynamic marking is *cresc.*.

System 3:

- Vocal Line:** Written in 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4 (marked with a 5), a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The final measure of the system contains a quarter rest, a half note G4, and a half note F#4.
- Piano Accompaniment:** Written in 4/4 time. The left hand plays a half note C3, a half note D3, and a half note E3. The right hand plays a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

Little Red Wagon

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Playfully ♩ = 138 - 152

1

p

mf

mp

3 1 3 1 2

legato

5

pp

p

mp

3 1 3

5

2

2

3

3

Doll House

Dreamily ♩ = 63 - 72

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p 2 LH 3 4 3 5

mp 2 LH 2 5

3 3 3

Teddy Bear

Singing merrily ♩ = 108 - 120

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7

mp legato

mf

mp

p

f

mf

Super Hero Action Figure

Grandly ♩ = 126 - 138

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pp

mf

p

f

rit. (2nd time)

Fine

Video Game Adventure

Lively ♩ = 132 - 160

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7

2

LH 4 *mf* RH

1 3 1 3

2 3

1 3

3 1 2 3

1 3 1

3 1

2

p RH

LH 4 *mp* RH

2

4

Fire Truck

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With excitement ♩. = 100 - 112

mf
legato

p **mp** **mf** **f**

5

Toy Train

11

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Happily ♩ = 116 - 120

The musical score for 'Toy Train' is presented in two systems. Both systems are in common time (C) and feature a piano accompaniment. The first system is marked *mf* and the second *f*. The bass line in both systems is a continuous eighth-note pattern. The treble line in the first system features a descending scale (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) and a final melodic phrase. The treble line in the second system features a similar descending scale and a final melodic phrase. The score is written for piano and includes dynamic markings and fingering instructions.

Bouncing Ball

Bouncing playfully ♩ = 132 - 160

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The musical score for "Bouncing Ball" is written for piano. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The first system is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and the second system is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The tempo is indicated as 132 - 160 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 5/8. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, along with dynamic markings and fingering numbers.

System 1:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has a quarter rest, then a quarter note F#4 with a fingering number 2. Bass staff has a quarter note C3 with a fingering number 5, then a quarter note D3, and a quarter rest.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has a quarter rest, then a quarter note F#4 with a fingering number 4. Bass staff has a quarter note C3 with a fingering number 5, then a quarter note D3, and a quarter rest.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has a quarter rest, then a quarter note F#4 with a fingering number 4. Bass staff has a quarter note C3 with a fingering number 5, then a quarter note D3, and a quarter rest.
- Measure 4: Treble staff has a quarter note F#4, then a quarter note G#4, and a quarter rest. Bass staff has a quarter note C#4, then a quarter note D#4, and a quarter rest.

System 2:

- Measure 5: Treble staff has a quarter rest, then a quarter note F#4 with a fingering number 5. Bass staff has a quarter note C3 with a fingering number 5, then a quarter note D3, and a quarter rest.
- Measure 6: Treble staff has a quarter rest, then a quarter note F#4 with a fingering number 5. Bass staff has a quarter note C3 with a fingering number 5, then a quarter note D3, and a quarter rest.
- Measure 7: Treble staff has a quarter rest, then a quarter note F#4 with a fingering number 5. Bass staff has a quarter note C3 with a fingering number 5, then a quarter note D3, and a quarter rest.
- Measure 8: Treble staff has a quarter note F#4, then a quarter note G#4, and a quarter rest. Bass staff has a quarter note C#4, then a quarter note D#4, and a quarter rest.

Racing Cars

13

With energy ♩ = 100 - 120

Teresa Richert

The musical score for "Racing Cars" is written for piano and bass. It is in 6/8 time and consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano (*p*) legato melody in the right hand, marked with triplets and slurs. The bass line in the left hand consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second system (measures 6-10) continues the melody and bass line, with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking in measure 8. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Plush Toy Parade

Teresa Richert

Marching ♩ = 132 - 152, swing 8ths

The musical score for "Plush Toy Parade" is written for piano and treble clef. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as Marching ♩ = 132 - 152, swing 8ths. The score is divided into four systems of music.

System 1: The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The treble part has a whole rest in the first two measures, followed by eighth-note patterns in the last two measures. Fingerings 1, 2, 3, and 2 are indicated above the treble staff.

System 2: The piano part continues with eighth-note patterns. The treble part has a quarter rest in the first measure, followed by eighth-note patterns. Fingerings 4, 5, 2, 2, 5, 4, and 3 are indicated above the treble staff. A repeat sign is present at the end of the system.

System 3: The piano part features a crescendo and decrescendo hairpin. The treble part has a quarter rest in the first measure, followed by eighth-note patterns. Fingerings 5, 1, 3, 1, and 5 are indicated above the treble staff.

System 4: The piano part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a forte (*f*) dynamic. The treble part has a quarter rest in the first measure, followed by eighth-note patterns. Fingerings 1, 1, 5, 4, 3, 2, 5, 5, 1, and 3 are indicated above the treble staff.

Notes for Teachers

Features of the Pieces

Blocks (marked Determined) harmonic intervals, clusters, slurs, staccato, accents, *tenuto*, damper pedal, *ritardando*, *8va*, *crescendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Little Red Wagon (marked Playfully) harmonic 3rds, chromaticism, *legato*, *staccato*, slurs, accents, *fermata*, *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Doll House (marked Dreamily) crossovers, syncopated pedalling, *una corda* optional, *tenuto*, *ritardando*, dynamic range *pp* to *mp*

Teddy Bear (marked Singing Merrily) triple meter with dotted rhythms, RH and LH melody, slurs, *legato*, *ritardando*, *diminuendo*, *crescendo*, opportunity for voicing in RH, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Super Hero Action Figure (marked Grandly) LH melody, slurs, *staccato*, D.C. al Fine, *ritardando*, rolled chord, *fermata*, damper pedal, *crescendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Video Game Adventure (marked Lively) duple meter, whole tone and chromatic scales, melody shared between hands, slurs, *staccato*, accents, *fermata*, *ritardando*, dynamic range *pp* to *ff*

Fire Truck (marked With Excitement) compound meter, chromatic scale, slurs, *legato*, *crescendo*, dynamic range *p* to *ff*

Toy Train (marked Happily) harmonic intervals, D.C. al Fine, *fermata*, *staccato*, *legato*, accents, *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Bouncing Ball (marked Bouncing Playfully) mixed meter, changing meter, *staccato*, accents, *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Racing Cars (marked With Energy) compound meter, *ritardando*, *a tempo*, *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *f*

Plush Toy Parade (marked Marching) swing rhythm, triplet, grace notes, accents, *staccato*, slurs, *fermata*, *8vb*, opportunity for voicing in RH, *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, dynamic range *pp* to *ff*