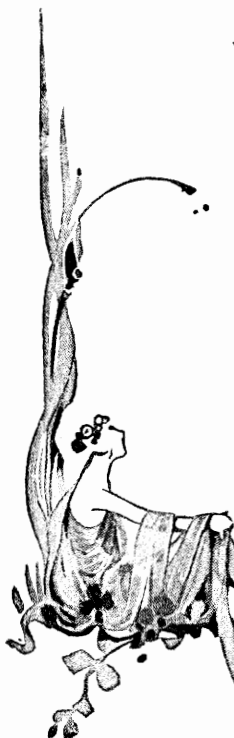


Happy Half Hours in Melody Land



Elementary Lessons
for the Pianoforte
by

Mathilde Bilbro



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HAPPY HALF-HOURS IN MELODY LAND

ELEMENTARY LESSONS
FOR THE
PIANOFORTE

BY

MATHILDE BILBRO

Published by
THE WILLIS MUSIC COMPANY
CINCINNATI
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Bilbro Books

Very First Lessons

The object of this book is two-fold.

First: It is designed to reach the child five or six years of age without imposing the slightest strain upon immature minds. For children of this age it will serve as the first year's work.

Second: It is excellent for the child slightly older, (seven to nine) to be used as a short preparatory course before beginning the usual first grade work. With some children this is advisable. Very First Lessons does not cover all of First Grade. It prepares the immature mind. With many little beginners it succeeds where the usual first grade book fails.

Study Of Bass Notes

This book follows readily upon Very First Lessons. While both Treble and Bass clefs are used, the Bass clef is strongly specialized. The object is apparent. In the young beginner's first year the left hand is usually so weak as to be almost helpless, while the right hand is fairly strong. Such disparity should be overcome to a great extent in the first year's work. While this technical point is the primary object in The Study of Bass Notes, the secondary object, that of improving Bass clef reading, is almost as much to be emphasized. This book should be supplemented by numerous very easy pieces, or duets in which the pupil studies the Treble part.

Happy Half-Hours In Melody-Land

Happy Half-Hours In Melody-Land is particularly designed for the beginner of the usual age, eight to eleven years. From the first lesson the Treble and Bass clefs are used together, but new notes are presented gradually, so that the young student may not be discouraged or confused by too great a range of notes to be learned at once. "Make haste slowly" and surely, is the dominant idea in this book. It will be seen that as soon as a short range of notes in each clef is mastered, the technical work for the two hands is practically the same, and continues so throughout, thus obviating that all-too-common occurrence, the right hand quickly surpassing the left in ability. To insure this equality between the hands, exercises for the left hand alone are frequently given. Little supplementary sheet music is needed in the study of Happy Half-Hours In Melody-Land, since the book contains many easy pieces, some with text. But as every little beginner dearly loves a "piece," the piano-stories in the set of pieces called "Seven Sunny Stories" can be used satisfactorily with Happy Half-Hours, and towards the close of the book Twelve Piano Stories fit in very aptly if supplementary sheet pieces are required. Happy Half-Hours In Melody-Land carries the pupil to the point of second year work.

Little Etudes For Little Fingers Volume I

Here the design is to overcome a prejudice. These studies are specifically for the pupil of nine to twelve years who cordially dislikes studies. It often happens that a child becomes impressed with the idea that anything called a "study" or an "etude" is necessarily something tiresome and unattractive. "Studies" mean to such children a painful duty—to be avoided if possible. Often they find it difficult to concentrate. The study has too many points; it is too long; and it isn't "pretty," anyhow! So they are tired of it before it is finished. Little Etudes For Little Fingers helps to do away with this false impression about "studies" by reason of the following facts:

First: The studies are very short; no excuse for growing tired of one before it is learned.

Second: Each study contains only one lesson point; no excuse for not being able to concentrate.

Third: The studies are made so attractive in melody that it is seldom they fail to conquer in the little pupil's mind the old prejudice against "studies" or "etudes."

Little Etudes For Little Fingers Volume II

Little Etudes For Little Fingers, Vol. II, carries out in second-year work, the same ideas presented in the first volume, with the exception that there is necessarily more than one point to be mastered in each study.

Progressive Early Grade Studies

This volume is intended for the more mature beginner, twelve to fifteen years of age, or older. It is well adapted to the serious student, and is essentially second-year work. A strong point is made of introducing at an early stage the explanation and study of the minor modes. This is a point often too long deferred, and the pupil is confused by being required to play music in minor keys when he doesn't know what a minor key is. Progressive Early Grade Studies thoroughly covers this point, and progresses in technical difficulty at a rate to keep pace with the diligent and mentally alert student.

Attitude Bilbro

Happy Half-Hours in Melody Land

MATHILDE BILBRO

CHAPTER ONE

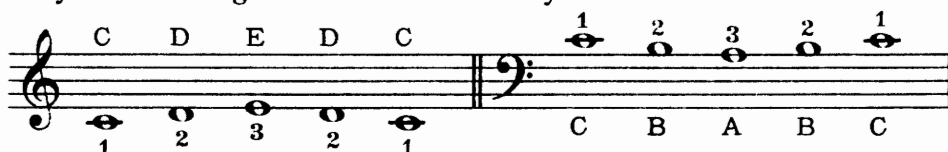
Introducing whole notes and whole rests.
Quarter notes and quarter rests.
The notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G.
Both hands together from the beginning.

Copy the following signs in your tablet:



Play with the right hand.

Play with the left hand.



Count four Count four

Both thumbs on middle C

1

R. H. off

L.H. off

Count aloud

Both thumbs

2

Practice writing whole notes and whole rests in your tablet.

A quarter note:



Four quarter notes are equal to one whole note:



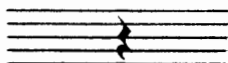
Count

One, two, three, four.

Both thumbs

3

The quarter rest:



Count aloud

R. H. off
on rest

4

Both thumbs

5

Introducing F in the Treble Clef and G in the Bass Clef.

6

(F)

(G)

The Merry Singer

G in the Treble Clef.

7

(G)

Rob - in sings a cheer-ful song, You can hear him all day long,

At his work, or at his play, Rob - in sings the live-long day.

Copy the following notes in your tablet.

C D E F G C B A G

Can you spell words in your tablet, like this?

F E D B A G

How many words can you spell with the notes you have learned?

Mister Bee

8

Mis - ter Bee, all brown and yel - low, Thinks he is a hand - some fel - low.

Fat and fuz - zy, Brown and buz - zy, Bus - y Mis - ter Bum - ble Bee!

CHAPTER TWO

Introducing half notes and half rests.

Half note Half rest

Count
One, two, three, four.

9

Sleepy-time Song

10

Raindrops

Little raindrops fall today; how I wish they'd go away!
 Little raindrops, pray don't stay; for I want to go and play!

A in the second space, Treble.
 F on the fourth line, Bass.

11

(A)

The first system of music for 'Raindrops' is in 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The melody in the treble staff starts on A4 (second space) and descends stepwise to F4 (fourth line). The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment, starting on F3 (fourth line) and moving in parallel motion with the treble staff.

(F)

The second system of music for 'Raindrops' continues the melody from the first system. It also consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The treble staff continues the descending melody from A4 to F4. The bass staff continues the accompaniment, maintaining the same pattern as the first system.

The Bird on the Limb

Swing-ing, swing-ing, in my tree, Up so high, up so high, Just as hap-py

12

The first system of music for 'The Bird on the Limb' is in 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The melody in the treble staff starts on A4 (second space) and descends stepwise to F4 (fourth line). The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment, starting on F3 (fourth line) and moving in parallel motion with the treble staff.

as can be, Nev-er sad; no, not I! Do you think I am a-fraid,

The second system of music for 'The Bird on the Limb' continues the melody from the first system. It also consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The treble staff continues the descending melody from A4 to F4. The bass staff continues the accompaniment, maintaining the same pattern as the first system.

Lit-tle maid, lit-tle maid? Swing-ing, swing-ing in my tree, Mer-ri-ly, mer-ri-ly!

The third system of music for 'The Bird on the Limb' continues the melody from the second system. It also consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The treble staff continues the descending melody from A4 to F4. The bass staff continues the accompaniment, maintaining the same pattern as the first system.

CHAPTER THREE

Introducing small skips and turning under the thumb.

The Mill Wheel

Small skips

13

See the wheel go turn-ing, turn-ing, whshl Up and down!

Hear the wa - ter churn-ing, churn-ing, whshl Round and round!

Playing Ball

Larger skips

14

Turning the thumb under.

Turning the third finger over the thumb.

15

Play this chord several times.

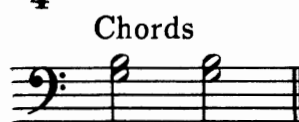
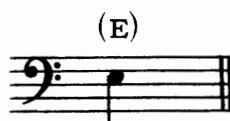
(B)

The tie

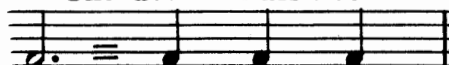
The Run-away

16

CHAPTER FOUR

Introducing $\frac{3}{4}$ rhythm

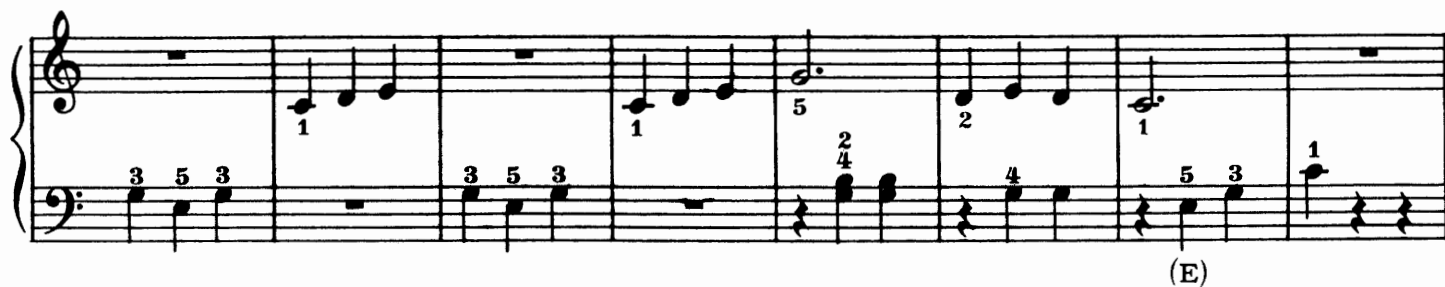
The dotted half note



A Song of One, Two, Three



The Bear Waltzes



Study

19

(C)

CHAPTER FIVE

Turning the thumb under a finger.
Turning the third finger over the thumb.
The scale of C Major.

New Bass notes

D C

20

The range of notes now known

21

C major scale

Add two new notes:

Play as follows:

(D) (C) C major scale

Exercise 21 shows the C major scale in both treble and bass staves. The treble staff starts on middle C (C4) and goes up to G4, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5. The bass staff starts on F3 and goes down to C2, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5. A section labeled 'Add two new notes:' shows the notes D4 and C4 in the treble staff, and F3 and C2 in the bass staff. The final instruction 'Play as follows:' shows the scale starting on D4 in the treble and C2 in the bass, moving inward to C4 in both staves.

Both thumbs on middle C

22

C major scale in Contra motion

Exercise 22 shows the C major scale in contra motion. The treble staff starts on middle C (C4) and goes up to G4, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1. The bass staff starts on F3 and goes down to C2, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1. Brackets indicate that both hands start on middle C.

23

C major scale in $\frac{4}{4}$ rhythm

Exercise 23 shows the C major scale in 4/4 rhythm. The treble staff starts on middle C (C4) and goes up to G4, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1. The bass staff starts on F3 and goes down to C2, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1. Brackets indicate that both hands start on middle C.

24

C major scale in $\frac{3}{4}$ rhythm

Exercise 24 shows the C major scale in 3/4 rhythm. The treble staff starts on middle C (C4) and goes up to G4, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1. The bass staff starts on F3 and goes down to C2, with fingerings 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1. Brackets indicate that both hands start on middle C.

A Game for Two

Alternate use of hands.

25

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

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

Duet

26

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

3 4 5 6 3 2 1 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 3 4 5

CHAPTER SIX

Chords

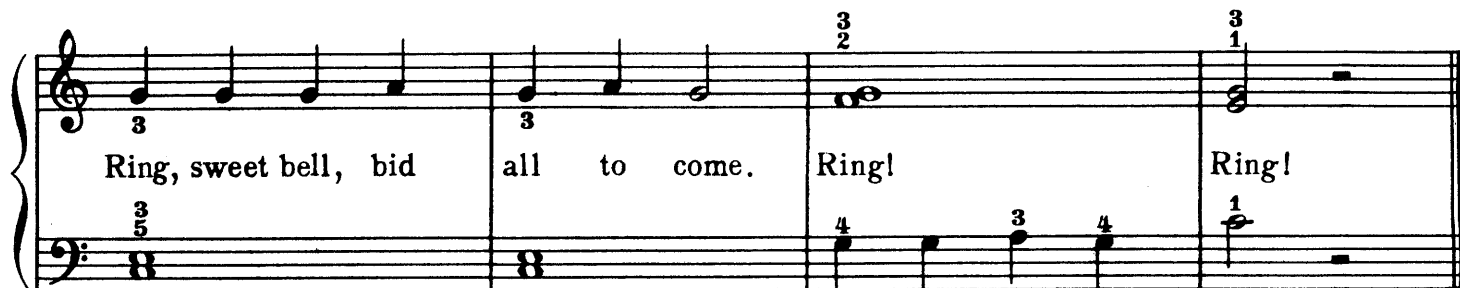
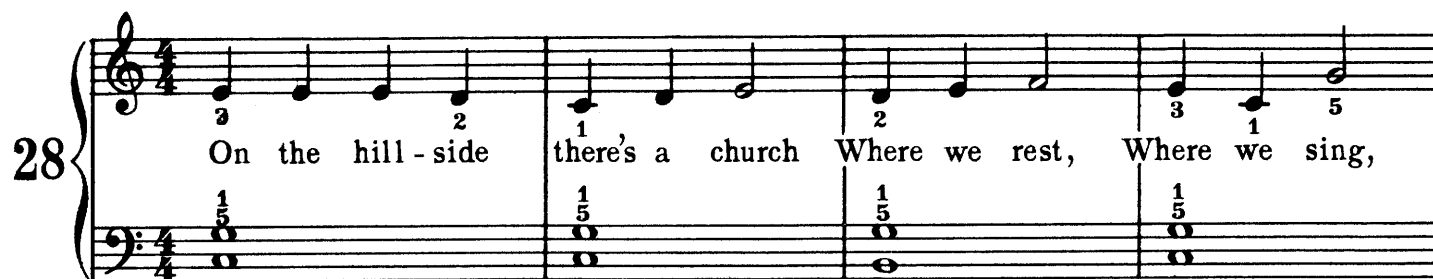
New Bass note



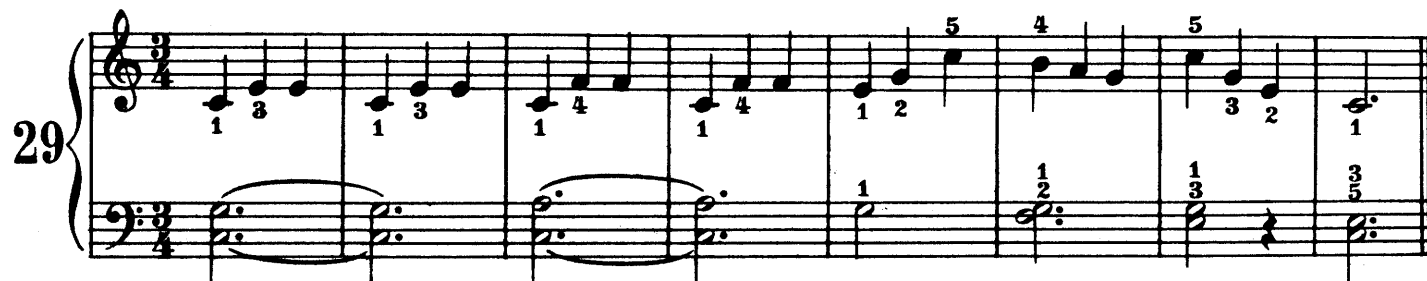
L.H.



The Village Church



Study



Florette Waltz

The right hand visits the Bass Clef

30 **Slowly**

R.H. L.H.

A Little Duet

The left hand plays in the Treble Clef

31

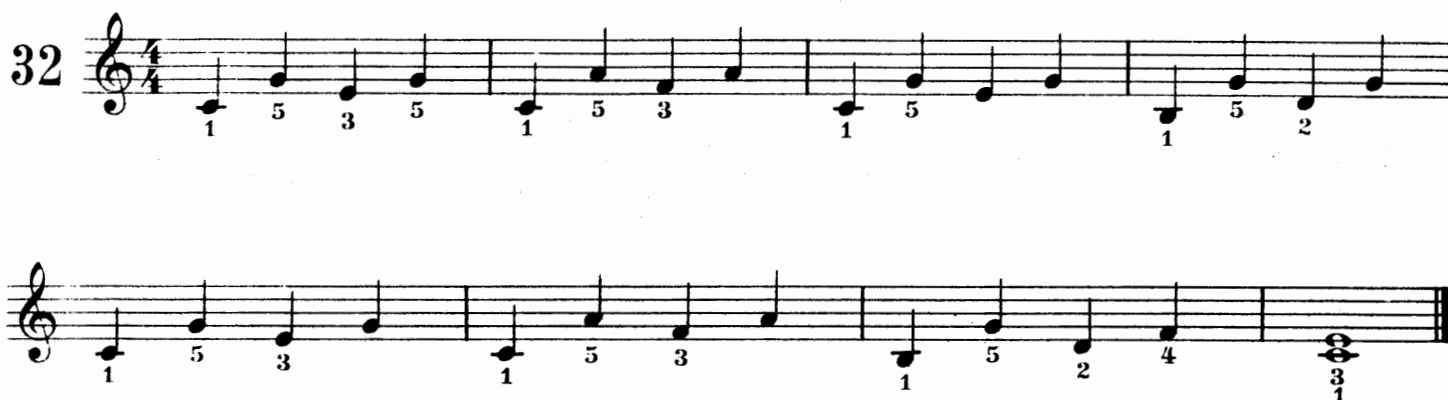
Left hand L.H. R.H. L.H.

L.H. R.H.

R.H. L.H.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Exercise. Right hand alone



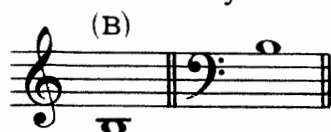
Exercises for the Left Hand alone



CHAPTER EIGHT

Using the hands in either clef.
Introducing Legato and Staccato.

The same key.



Visiting



Thumb under

37

The legato touch. The staccato touch.

Evening Story

Slowly

38

Morning Story

Briskly

39

The Donkey Ride

Briskly

40

Trot, trot, trot, trot, On our lit - tle don - key.

Up hill, down hill, ea - si - ly he goes. Trot, trot,

trot, trot, Do not make him go too fast, Or you'll fall, and

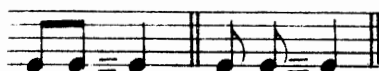
Slowly **Briskly**

may-be break your nose! Then trot, trot, trot, You'll run and tell your

moth - er. So go slow, 'Tis bet - ter I sup - pose.

CHAPTER NINE

Introducing eighth notes and eighth rests. $\frac{2}{4}$ rhythm.



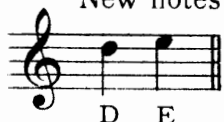
Eight rest



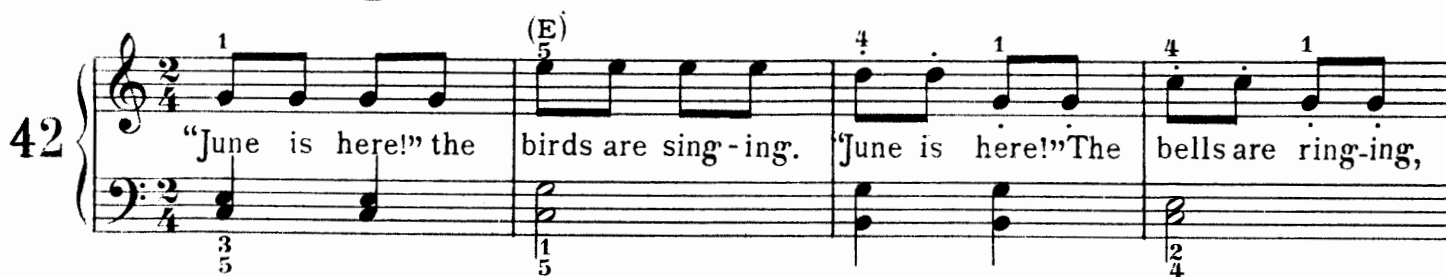
One and two and



New notes



A Holiday Song



Scale Study

Notice these signs.

f means loud
ff means very loud

p means soft
pp means very soft

mf means moderately loud
mp means moderately soft



Melody Study

44 *mf*

3 4 2 3

1/4 1/2

p

1 4 5 2

1/5 1/4 3/5

f *mp* *p* *p*

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

5 1 5 4 2 4 1

mf

3 4 1 2 1

1/4 1 3 3/5

The Jolly Trolley-Riders

A little fast

45 *mf*

1 5

5 2

4 2

5 2

4 2

2 4

2 1

3 1

2 4

2

5 2

1

5 1

5 1

5 1

2 4

2 1

2

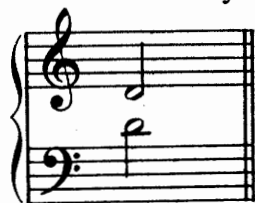
1

5

2 4

1 2 5

The same key



(D)

CHAPTER TEN

Introducing F sharp and the Key of G major.

Melody

Moderately slow

46 *mf*

The Signature of G major.

47

A Story of G Major

A little slow

48 *mp*

Scale of G major.
Left hand alone.

49

Can you play this scale in contra motion? Begin with both thumbs on G
Right hand alone. as follows:

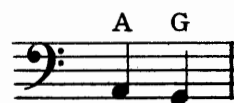
50

Left hand alone.

51

52

New notes:



Village Dance

Not too fast

53

Piano score for 'Village Dance' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of four systems of two staves each. The tempo is 'Not too fast'. The first system includes a dynamic marking of *mf*. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Study

Moderately slow

54

Piano score for 'Study' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The tempo is 'Moderately slow'. The first system includes a dynamic marking of *mf*. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Study

Not too slow

55

mp (G) (A)

The piano score for 'Study' is written in 4/4 time and consists of five systems of music. The first system is marked *mp* and includes the instruction '(G) (A)'. The second system is marked *p*. The third system is marked *mf*. The fourth system is marked *p*. The fifth system is marked *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass staves, notes, rests, and fingerings. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Range of notes now covered.

Scale of G major. Three Octaves.

56

Exercise 56 is a three-octave G major scale. The right hand (R.H.) is written on a treble clef staff, starting on G4 and ascending to G6. The left hand (L.H.) is written on a bass clef staff, starting on G2 and ascending to G4. Fingering is indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

The Sledding Party

A little fast

57

The first system of exercise 57, 'The Sledding Party', is in 4/4 time and G major. It begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The right hand (R.H.) features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand (L.H.) provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. Fingering is shown for both hands.

The second system of exercise 57 continues the piece. The right hand has more complex melodic patterns, including some triplets, while the left hand continues with a steady accompaniment. The key signature remains G major.

The third system of exercise 57 concludes the piece. It features a final melodic flourish in the right hand and a descending line in the left hand. The key signature remains G major.

Signature of F major.



Introducing B flat and the key of F major

Melody

58 **Slowly**

mp

The Lawn Party

59 **Moderately slow**

mf

This musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, slurs, and fingerings (numbers 1-5). Dynamics are indicated by *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). The score concludes with a double bar line.

System 1: Treble staff begins with a quarter note G4 (fingering 1), followed by a quarter note A4 (fingering 4), and a quarter note B4 (fingering 1). Bass staff has a quarter note G3 (fingering 1), a quarter note F3 (fingering 2), and a quarter note E3 (fingering 3). Dynamics: *mp*.

System 2: Treble staff has a quarter note G4 (fingering 4), a quarter note A4 (fingering 2), and a quarter note B4 (fingering 1). Bass staff has a quarter note G3 (fingering 2), a quarter note F3 (fingering 5), and a quarter note E3 (fingering 2). Dynamics: *mp*.

System 3: Treble staff has a quarter note G4 (fingering 4), a quarter note A4 (fingering 2), and a quarter note B4 (fingering 1). Bass staff has a quarter note G3 (fingering 2), a quarter note F3 (fingering 5), and a quarter note E3 (fingering 2). Dynamics: *mf*.

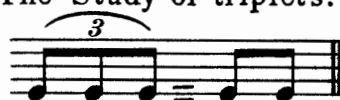
System 4: Treble staff has a quarter note G4 (fingering 4), a quarter note A4 (fingering 2), and a quarter note B4 (fingering 1). Bass staff has a quarter note G3 (fingering 2), a quarter note F3 (fingering 5), and a quarter note E3 (fingering 2). Dynamics: *mf*.

System 5: Treble staff has a quarter note G4 (fingering 4), a quarter note A4 (fingering 2), and a quarter note B4 (fingering 1). Bass staff has a quarter note G3 (fingering 2), a quarter note F3 (fingering 5), and a quarter note E3 (fingering 2). Dynamics: *f*.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

The Study of triplets.

New note in Bass



Slowly

60

Study

Count aloud
Slowly

61

Lady Bridget

Old Dance

62

Slowly

mf

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time, marked 'Slowly' and 'mf'. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody in the treble staff features eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in triplets. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. Fingering numbers (1-5) are indicated below many notes. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system shows a continuation of the piece. The fourth system concludes with a double bar line. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Introducing $\frac{6}{8}$ rhythm

Exercise

63

A Song of Night

Not too slow

64

mp

p

First system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes with fingerings 2, 4, 2, 1, 4, 1, 2, 4, 3, 2. A slur covers the last four notes. The bass line has quarter notes with fingerings 1, 2, 1, 5. A *mf* dynamic marking is present.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody has quarter notes with fingerings 1, 5, 4, 3, 2. The bass line has eighth-note patterns with fingerings 5 3, 5 3, 4 2, and 5 3. A *mf* dynamic marking is present.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody has quarter notes with fingerings 4, 1, 5, 4. The bass line has eighth-note patterns with fingerings 5 3, 5 3, 5 3, and 5 3 2 1 2 3. A *mp* dynamic marking is present.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody has quarter notes with fingerings 1, 3, 1, 3. The bass line has eighth-note patterns with fingerings 5 3, 5 3, 5 2 1, and 5 2.

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody has quarter notes with fingerings 5 1, 5 1. The bass line has eighth-note patterns with fingerings 1 3, 2 4, 5 3 2 1 2, and 5 3 2 1 2. A *mf* dynamic marking is present.

Study

With regular rhythm

65 *mf*

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Leger notes between the staves.

Notice the identity.

Play with each hand separately.

66

A Little Talk

Briskly

67

mf

L.H.

The First Recital

Moderately slow

Notice E flat

68

mf

mp

(G)

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Leger notes above the Treble staff and below the Bass.



Not too slow

Study

69 *mf*

The study consists of five systems of two staves each. The first system is marked with a piano dynamic (*mf*) and the number 69. The music features leger notes and various fingerings. The first system includes a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a harmonic line. The second system continues the melodic and harmonic development. The third system introduces a new melodic phrase. The fourth system features a more complex melodic line with many leger notes. The fifth system concludes the study with a final melodic phrase and a harmonic accompaniment.

How many octaves?



Away to the Woods

Briskly

Handwritten musical notation for the piece "Away to the Woods". The tempo is marked "Briskly". The piece is in 6/8 time and begins with a piano (p) dynamic. The notation is for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The piece consists of 70 measures, with the number "70" written at the beginning. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and fingering numbers (1-5) written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

The Key of D major.

71

What scale is this?

How many octaves?

A Ballad

Moderately slow

72

mp

mf

p

mp

A Fireside Story

73 **Not too fast** *mp*

Spring Flowers

Moderately slow

74

mf

The musical score for 'Spring Flowers' is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is 'Moderately slow'. The score consists of five systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), and *mf* again at the end. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction 'D. C. al Fine'.

System 1: Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (1, 5, 4, 1, 5, 4, 1, 5, 4). Bass staff has a simple accompaniment with fingerings (1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 2, 2, 5).

System 2: Treble staff continues the melody with slurs and fingerings (2, 1, 3, 1, 5, 4, 2, 5). Bass staff continues the accompaniment.

System 3: Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs. Bass staff has a melodic line starting with a *p* dynamic, with slurs and fingerings (1, 3, 1, 2, 3). The word 'Fine' is written below the bass staff.

System 4: Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs. Bass staff has a melodic line starting with a *p* dynamic, with slurs and fingerings (1, 2, 1, 3, 1).

System 5: Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (4, 2, 3, 2, 1). Bass staff has a melodic line starting with a *mf* dynamic, with slurs and fingerings (1, 4, 2, 1, 2, 1). The piece ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'D. C. al Fine'.

D. C. al Fine

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

What scale is this?
In how many octaves?

75

Study

Both hands in Bass.

A little slow

76

A Bed-time Song

Both Hands in Bass.

Not too fast

77 *pp*

(F) *a little louder*

softer

pp *pp*

Study

Both hands in Bass.

A little fast

78 *mf*

The musical score is written for both hands in the bass clef, 3/4 time, key of D major. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system starts with a measure number of 78 and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The music features a series of eighth-note patterns in the right hand, often beamed together, and longer note values in the left hand. Fingering numbers (1-5) are indicated above many notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth system.



EARLY SECOND GRADE PIECES

TO EMPHASIZE INTERPRETATION



Drolleries

CHARLES HUERTER

Allegretto



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Return of Harlequin

CHARLES HUERTER

Allegretto (♩ = 104)



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Marionette March

FRANCINA EARLY
Op. 27, No. 1

Moderato



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June Roses

WALTZ

FRANCINA EARLY
Op. 27, No. 2

Tempo di Valse



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Dreaming by the Riverside

FRANCINA EARLY
Op. 27, No. 3

Andantino



W. M. Co. 4048-S

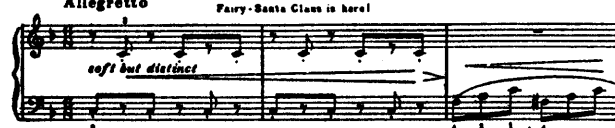
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Reindeer of the Fairies

FRANCINA EARLY
Op. 27, No. 4

Allegretto

They feet go pitter, pitter,
Dashing through the midnight air,
They sleds go clatter, clatter,
Fairy-Santa Claus is here!



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THE WILLIS MUSIC CO., Cincinnati, Ohio

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W.M.C. 204

