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For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliott S. Pierpoint

Conrad Kocher
Arranged by Dan Forrest (ASCAP)

Gently

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system (measures 1-3) starts with a treble staff containing a quarter-note triplet (1 2 5) and a dynamic of *mp*. The bass staff has a whole rest in measure 1 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 3 with a dynamic of *mf*. The second system (measures 4-6) has a treble staff with a steady eighth-note pattern and a dynamic of *p* in measure 6. The bass staff has a steady quarter-note pattern. The third system (measures 7-9) continues the eighth-note pattern in the treble and quarter-note pattern in the bass. The fourth system (measures 10-12) has a treble staff with a dynamic of *mf* and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 11. The bass staff has a steady quarter-note pattern with a dynamic of *mf* in measure 10.

The First Noel

Traditional

Traditional English carol
Arranged by Dan Forrest (ASCAP)**Moderato, gently**

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system (measures 1-4) starts with a *mp* dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line (measures 1-2) and a first ending bracket in the treble line (measures 3-4). The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) features a *mf* dynamic and a first ending bracket in the treble line (measures 11-12). The fourth system (measures 13-16) concludes the piece with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line (measures 15-16).

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

14th century German carol
Arranged by Dan Forrest (ASCAP)

Quickly, lightly

First system of musical notation (measures 1-4). The piece is in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is 'Quickly, lightly'. The first measure features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand, with a '3' above it. The dynamic is *f* (forte). The second measure has a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The system ends with a fermata over the final note.

Second system of musical notation (measures 5-8). Measure 5 starts with a '5' above the first note. Measure 6 has a '2' above the second note. The dynamic is *mp*. The system ends with a fermata over the final note, marked with an asterisk (*).

Third system of musical notation (measures 9-12). Measure 9 starts with a '9' above the first note. The dynamic is *mf* (mezzo-forte). The system ends with a fermata over the final note, marked with an asterisk (*).

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 13-16). Measure 13 starts with a '13' above the first note. Measure 14 has a '4' above the first note. Measure 15 has a '2' above the second note. Measure 16 has a '1' above the first note. The dynamic is *mp*. The system ends with a fermata over the final note, marked with an asterisk (*).

Teacher's Focus Points

Remember to teach your students the importance of trying to communicate the words of each song as they play.

We Gather Together

- Legato melody
- Expressive phrase shaping, emphasis on downbeats
- Anticipate shifts of position

Now Thank We All Our God

- Ensemble skills: listening to the whole, keeping tempo steady
- Dynamic contrast between phrases
- Smaller ritard vs. bigger ritard second time
- Projecting melody over accompaniment
- Playing in octaves—strike notes exactly together

For the Beauty of the Earth

- Voicing LH Melody
- Anticipate shifts of position
- Legato melody and accompaniment
- Dynamic contrasts between phrases
- Form (AAB)
- Repetition within and between stanzas means much less actual music to learn!
- Learning to play both hands treble clef (second stanza) is also much easier if student thinks of playing previous stanza, just up an octave.

Away in a Manger

- Gentle feel, tone control at soft dynamic level
- Steady rhythmic figure in LH
- Try blocking LH measures to learn patterns
- Simple pedaling, once per measure
- Optional duet—Ensemble/listening skills

The First Noel

- Anticipate shifts of position (more extensive in this piece); relax and move freely
- Voice the melody whether in RH or LH
- Legato melody
- Expressive phrase shaping
- Form (AAB)

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

- Minor mode
- Staccato articulation from finger/wrist
- Facility with staccatos at quick tempo
- Dynamic contrasts (echoes)
- Enjoy finding the last note!

Good King Wenceslas

- Cut time signature: 2 beats per measure
- Dynamics (echoes)
- Repetition at the octave: “look before you leap”
- Emphasize hymn tune when it enters after introduction

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

- Compound time signature: 2 beats per measure
- Quick staccato production
- Beginning pedaling
- Dynamic contrasts
- Let the meter dance—accent strong beats and don't accent weak beats
- Optional transposition by ear/fingering/thinking up one note