

PENCIL

PIECES

**FOR SOLO PIANO,
OP. 63**

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NOTES

I am a certifiable pencil nerd. Sharpening a quality wood pencil to the *perfect* point is one of the most satisfying things I can think of. I love the smell of cedar and graphite. The feeling of marking the page with a fine instrument like a Blackwing is one of the best parts of my craft.

Here are three little love letters to three pencils I'm particularly fond of. I tried to express in music what it feels like to write with them, to capture each one's unique personality.

This set is part of an ongoing project I simply call "little pieces"—solo piano music or art songs that I've been writing when the mood strikes, when I have nothing better to do, or when I need a break from a larger project. Like my pencils, these little pieces keep my technique sharp.

Spring, 2023

for Nestor, with gratitude for the lovely pencils!

Blackwing Ballade

Easily, flexible

p

Poco rit.

poco più

p

A tempo

mp

Rit.

5

9

13

17

The score is written for piano in 3/4 time, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of five systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked 'Easily, flexible' and 'p'. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked 'Poco rit.' and 'poco più', with a 'p' dynamic at the end. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked 'A tempo' and 'mp'. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues the 'A tempo' section. The fifth system (measures 17-20) is marked 'Rit.' and concludes the piece.

22 **A tempo**

Musical score for measures 22-25. Treble clef has chords and a long note. Bass clef has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

26

poco a poco cresc.

Musical score for measures 26-29. Treble clef has chords. Bass clef has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

30

molto ten.

poco f

meno

Musical score for measures 30-33. Treble clef has chords and a long note. Bass clef has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

34 **Mosso, agitato**

p

non stacc.

Musical score for measures 34-36. Treble clef has eighth notes. Bass clef has chords.

37

Musical score for measures 37-40. Treble clef has eighth notes. Bass clef has chords.

41

f *p*

45

f *più p*

49

cresc. molto

8va

ff

A tempo, tempestuoso e con rubato

51

sfz

53

Musical score for measures 53-54. The top system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff (bass and piano staves). The bottom system is a single bass clef staff. The music is in a minor key and features complex chordal textures with triplets in the final measures.

55

Molto rall.

meno *mp* *p*

Grave

pp

Musical score for measures 55-58. The top system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. The bottom system is a single bass clef staff. The tempo is marked "Molto rall." and "Grave". Dynamics include "meno", "mp", "p", and "pp". The music features long, sustained notes and triplets.

59

Tempo primo

ppp

Musical score for measures 59-63. The top system consists of a bass clef staff and a grand staff. The bottom system is a single bass clef staff. The tempo is marked "Tempo primo". The music features long, sustained notes and complex rhythmic patterns.

64

poco più

Musical score for measures 64-67. The top system consists of a bass clef staff and a grand staff. The bottom system is a single bass clef staff. The music features long, sustained notes and complex rhythmic patterns.

68

p *mp*

This system contains measures 68 through 71. The right hand starts with a piano (*p*) chord in measure 68, followed by a melodic line in measure 69. In measure 70, the dynamic changes to mezzo-piano (*mp*) with a chord. Measure 71 features a sustained chord with a tremolo effect. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment throughout.

72

This system contains measures 72 through 75. The right hand continues with chords and melodic fragments. The left hand maintains its eighth-note accompaniment, with some notes beamed together.

76

This system contains measures 76 through 79. The right hand features a long, sweeping melodic line across measures 76 and 77, followed by chords. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

80

This system contains measures 80 through 83. The right hand has a melodic line in measure 80, followed by chords. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

84

f

This system contains measures 84 through 87. The right hand has a melodic line in measure 84, followed by chords. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic *f* (forte) is indicated in measure 85.

88

Rit.

92

Lento

96

98

Molto lento, morendo

100

Staedler Sarabande

Lento

p *espr.*

7

poco cresc. e accel.

11

A tempo

poco rit. *poco f* *p*

16

cresc. e accel. sim.

21 *poco rit.*

poco f

25 **Pesante e marcato**

sempre f

ff

30

pp

ff

pp

Velocemente

35

f

37 *accel.*

3

39 *Pesante ancora* *Tempo primo*

ff *p*

44

poco a poco dim. e rit.

49

pp

Mitsu-Bishi Mazurka

Lento non assai, poco rubato

24 **Tempo primo**

p

29 **Poco rit.**

b

34 **A tempo**

p cant.

38 **più espr.**

v

43

1. *p*

2.

48

legato e misterioso

53

Mosso, rubato

f_{sub.}

57

61

Poco rit.

Poco più lento

p

65

Come prima

più

70 **A tempo**

sfz *cresc. sim.*

75

f

80 **Tempo primo**

p

85

più sub.

90 **A tempo**

p

Poco a poco accel.

95

p poco a poco cresc.

Più mosso

100

ff

Lento

105

pp sub.
una corda

Tempo primo

111

p
tre corde

Quasi a tempo

116

Rit.
pp