
Foreword

The piano began to supersede the harpsichord around the same time the United States of America became an independent nation. Piano music has remained extremely popular in the U. S. A. ever since. During the 19th century, the piano became a fixture in most American homes, and American piano manufacturers such as Alpheus Babcock (1785–1842), Jonas Chickering (1798–1853) and Henry Steinway (1797–1871) made some of the best instruments in the world. During the 20th and 21st centuries, the piano has remained in wide use, even when radio, television and recordings have threatened its dominance. American music publishers have always focused on piano music more than any other area of music, publishing numerous works by both foreign and American composers. This volume focuses on a variety of styles and ethnic influences found in American piano music from the late 1700s forward.

American Piano Music to 1865. Important American keyboard composers during the late 18th and early 19th centuries include Alexander Reinagle (1756–1809), James Hewitt (1770–1827), Benjamin Carr (1768–1831) and Raynor Taylor (1747–1825). Although these composers were not born in America, all of them came to this country in their early years and spent their entire professional careers in the United States, and therefore can be regarded as American composers.

Between 1820 and the start of the American Civil War (1861), piano music for amateurs developed rapidly. Popular types of piano music during this period included sets of variations, dances, and abstract genres, with rondos being the most numerous. Starting in the 1840s, a Romantic influence could be felt, due to visiting European virtuosos. Anthony Philip Heinrich (1781–1861), Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829–1869) and William Mason (1829–1908) were three of the best-known composers from this period.

American Piano Music from 1865 to 1920. From the end of the Civil War (1865) to the early 20th century, American piano music was dominated by the traditions of central Europe. Most important American composers had studied in Europe, primarily in Germany. A group of composers centered in Boston (“The Boston Group”) included John Knowles Paine (1839–1906), George W. Chadwick (1854–1931), Amy Beach (1867–1944), Daniel Gregory Mason (1873–1953), Edward MacDowell (1861–1908) and Ethelbert Nevin (1862–1901). These composers wrote suites, sonatas, fugues and sets of small pieces. Other composers during this time included Charles Griffes (1884–1920), who was greatly influenced by the French Impressionists and Asian music, and Charles Ives (1874–1954) who worked in isolation and refused to follow any rules he did not invent himself. Ives often fused elements from the Romantic vocabulary with elements of American folk music.

American Piano Music since 1920. American piano music has seen a great deal of stylistic diversity since 1920. Many composers followed a more serious, craftsman-like compositional style based on principles established by The Boston Group. Composers writing in this period include Aaron Copland (1900–1990), Roger Sessions (1896–1985), Ross Lee Finney (1906–1997), Samuel Barber (1910–1981) and Elliott Carter (b. 1908). Notable composers of 12-tone piano music include Milton Babbitt (b. 1916), George Rochberg (b. 1918) and Charles Wuorinen (b. 1938).

Piano Music of Popular Inspiration. Ragtime and early jazz, created by African-Americans such as Scott Joplin (1868–1917) and Louis Armstrong (1900–1971), spread to mainstream culture and transformed American social dancing and popular music. Legendary American composer George Gershwin (1898–1937) combined elements of jazz with those of the mainstream concert tradition. “Novelty” music of the 1920s was inspired by ragtime, popular dance music, and Impressionistic elements (including the whole-tone scale and parallel fourths). Zez Confrey (1895–1971) composed *Kitten*

The Syncopated Clock

Leroy Anderson (1908–1975)

Moderately (♩ = 132) ^(a)

First system of music (Measures 1-4). The right hand (treble clef) features a syncopated melody with a forte (*sfz*) dynamic marking. The left hand (bass clef) provides a steady accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking, labeled as a "clock imitation". The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is common time (C).

Second system of music (Measures 5-8). The right hand continues the syncopated melody with various articulations. The left hand maintains the clock-like accompaniment. Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are indicated in boxes at the beginning of each measure.

Third system of music (Measures 9-12). The right hand continues the syncopated melody. The left hand maintains the clock-like accompaniment. Measure numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12 are indicated in boxes at the beginning of each measure.

Fourth system of music (Measures 13-16). The right hand continues the syncopated melody. The left hand maintains the clock-like accompaniment. Measure numbers 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated in boxes at the beginning of each measure.

^(a) Composer's metronome indication.

Over the Rainbow

Lyrics by E.Y. Harburg (1898–1981)

Music by Harold Arlen (1905–1986)

Arr. George Shearing

Moderately (♩ = ca. 44)

The piano score for "Over the Rainbow" is written for a single piano. It begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The melody is carried by the right hand, while the left hand provides a rich harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The score is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 4, 7, and 10 clearly marked at the start of their respective systems. Fingerings are carefully indicated throughout, including a specific 5-4-2 fingering for the right hand in measure 5. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 10.

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Love Song

Samuel Barber (1910–1981)

Allegretto (♩ = ca. 96)

Measures 1-5: *mf*, 4, 5 3 2, 4 2 1, 1, 1 3, 4

Measures 6-10: *f*, 1 2 1 2 4, 5, 2, 1

Measures 11-14: *pp*, *mf*, *p*, 5 4, 2 3, 1 1, 1 3, 4 5, 1 2

Measures 15-19: *pp*, *mf*, *f*, 5 5, 2 1 2 1 2, 2 1 3 2, 3

Measures 20-24: *mf*, (poco rit.), 4, 4 1, 3 1

Barcarolle

Amy Beach (1867–1944)
Op. 28, No. 1

Andantino (♩. = ca. 46)

pp

cantabile

con Pedale

5

9

mf

13

dim.

(a) Pedal indications are by the composer.

Blue Rondo a la Turk

Dave Brubeck (b. 1920)

Lively, ♩. = 126

The musical score is written for piano in 9/8 time, with a tempo of 126 beats per minute. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves (treble and bass clef). The first system (measures 1-4) includes a forte (f) dynamic marking and fingering numbers 4, 2, and 4. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked with a box containing the number 3. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked with a box containing the number 6. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked with a box containing the number 9. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes, and various articulations such as accents and slurs. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Kitten on the Keys

ZeZ Confrey (1895–1971)

Allegro moderato (♩ = ca. 152)

f

4

8

12

(sempre staccato)

The Cat and the Mouse

“Scherzo Humoristique”

Aaron Copland (1900–1990)

Moderately

p *mf* *ff* *dim.* *p* *long*

precipitously *8va* *LH* *10*

Very fast and rhythmic (♩ = 112)

p *without pedal*

A trifle slower (♩ = 108)

sinister *sf* *pp* *poco rit. dryly*

p *pp* *mp*

Dizzy Fingers

Zez Confrey (1895–1971)

Presto (♩ = ca. 138)

The musical score for "Dizzy Fingers" is written for piano in 2/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It is marked "Presto" with a tempo of approximately 138 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems of music. The first system shows a piano introduction with a treble staff of chords and a bass staff of a triplet eighth-note pattern. The second system begins at measure 5 with a melodic line in the treble staff featuring fingerings 1-2-3-4-1-2-3 and 4-3-2-1-4-3-2-1, and a bass staff accompaniment. The third system begins at measure 9 with a similar melodic and accompaniment structure. The fourth system begins at measure 13, continuing the melodic and accompaniment patterns. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings like "p" (piano).

Prelude II

(Blue Lullaby)

George Gershwin (1898–1937)

Andante con moto e poco rubato (♩ = 88)

The musical score for "Prelude II (Blue Lullaby)" by George Gershwin is presented in a standard piano format. It begins with a tempo and mood instruction: "Andante con moto e poco rubato" with a quarter note equal to 88 beats per minute. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves (treble and bass clef). The first system starts with a piano introduction marked "p legato" and includes a "simile" bracket under the first four measures. The second system begins at measure 5. The third system begins at measure 9. The fourth system begins at measure 13 and includes a "mf" (mezzo-forte) marking. The score concludes with a final measure at measure 16. Various musical notations are used throughout, including slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Boogie Woogie Etude

Morton Gould (1913–1996)

Fast-driving tempo (♩ = 176) ^(a)

Steely and hard throughout

ff *crisply*

8va - - - - - 7

5 4 2

4

2 1 5 3

1 3 4

7

1

sfz *sfz* *sfz*

10

3 2 1

(a) Composer's metronome marking.

Op. 46, No. 10

The musical score for 'The Swan' is presented in a two-staff format. The upper staff is for the piano, and the lower staff is for the swan. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 2/4. The piano part begins with a 'lightly' marking and features a series of chords and arpeggiated figures. The swan part begins with a 'pp' (pianissimo) marking and features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. Dynamics like 'pp' and 'ppp' are used throughout. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the overall structure is indicated by a large bracket on the left.

5

pp

5 2

4 2

2 4

2 4

Example 10 is a musical score for a piano (pp) texture. It features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, primarily consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords. The left hand provides a more active bass line, often using octaves and chords. The score includes fingerings (e.g., 4 2, 4 2, 4 1, 3 1, 4 2) and dynamics (pp). The piece is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The score is marked with a box containing the number 10.

15

pp

increase

continue

Blue Moon

Richard Rodgers (1902–1979)

Lyrics by Lorenz Hart

Arr. Art Tatum (1909–1956)

Moderato (♩ = ca. 96)

p

8va - - - - -

5

8

8va - - - - -

11

14

ff

ⓐ All fingerings by Art Tatum.