

Prayers of nature

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Introduction

The 28 compositions in this book can be played by pianists of any level. Although they are technically quite simple, it can be interesting for experienced piano players to sense the atmosphere the pieces exude on the one hand, and to try and empathize with the music and with nature in an almost meditative manner on the other hand.

There are several ways of finding inspiration to play this music.

We can try to empathize with the flowing of a rivulet (**The rivulet**), or with the almost sacred silence and rustling of a bamboo (**The bamboo**).

We can contemplate how the sea (**The sea**) is always the same, while every wave coming ashore is different, or how a cherry tree (**The cherry tree**) shows its beauty and lovingly plays with its falling blossom petals.

An olive orchard (**The olive orchard**) may evoke an atmosphere of security and oriental mystique.

A rose (**The rose**) may look fragile and perishable while delicately opening itself, or rather remind us of powerful and eternal love.

We can enjoy the coolness and peace of a murmuring spring (**The spring**) that seeks the light and constantly renews itself.

A palm tree (**The palm tree**) can be comforting and calming, or refreshing like in an oasis, but also mysterious and enchanting, while a mimosa (**The mimosa**) can touch our hearts with its sweet soothing scent.

With our backs against the trunk of an oak tree (**The oak tree**) we can feel its firmness and stillness, and we can gather fresh strength to explore new horizons.

When we touch the trunk of a fig tree (**The fig tree**), a secret world may reveal itself to us, full of warmth and power.

In the sound carpet of a forest, a solo by one bird (**The bird**) may suddenly stand out, giving the space around us a solemn character.

We can imagine the pure fresh air on a mountain top (**The mountain**), the

inviting sensuality of a jasmine (**The jasmine**), the freedom in the playful dance of two dragonflies (**The dragonflies**) or the healing warmth of a pine tree (**The pine tree**) along the mediterranean coast.

We can fantasize about the memories hidden in the silent water of a lake (**The lake**), or about a carrier pigeon (**The pigeon**) resting from a long journey before it flies towards the sun again.

We can let our hands move over the keyboard like the consoling branches of a weeping willow (**The weeping willow**), and let the eternal summer of a blooming ligustrum (**The ligustrum**) or of an oleander (**The oleander**) flow into our piano playing, or we can enrich our playing with the vibrant liveliness of a waterfall (**The waterfall**).

The fascinating process of a water lily (**The water lily**) opening and closing again may be a reflection of certain stages in our lives, and a rock (**The rock**) which stays firmly anchored while being flooded by water waves may remind us of qualities of ourselves.

The atmosphere of a boulevard lined with jacarandas (**The jacarandas**) or a sunny village square with plane trees (**The plane trees**) may be memories that help us in turbulent times.

We can let a walnut tree (**The walnut tree**) take us to its magical world, and let a joyful apple tree (**The apple tree**) heal our hearts.

The pieces have not been written in a certain key signature. Like in my book *Free piano playing for beginners*, I have deliberately given hardly any indications as to dynamics, tempo and the like, so that players can experiment and play in the way they sense the music themselves.

The rivulet

The musical score for 'The rivulet' is written for piano in 6/8 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score is marked with measure numbers 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with various note values, including half notes and whole notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the last system.

The oak tree

The musical score for "The oak tree" is written in 4/4 time and consists of six systems of piano accompaniment. Each system is composed of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a key signature change from C major to B-flat major in the first measure. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord in the treble staff and a sustained bass line.

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The oleander

The musical score for "The oleander" is written in 4/4 time and consists of six systems of piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notation is as follows:

- System 1:** Treble and bass staves. Treble: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D.
- System 2:** Treble and bass staves. Treble: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D.
- System 3:** Treble and bass staves. Treble: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D.
- System 4:** Treble and bass staves. Treble: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D.
- System 5:** Treble and bass staves. Treble: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D.
- System 6:** Treble and bass staves. Treble: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass: quarter notes B-flat, D, G, A, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D.

The rock

The musical score for 'The rock' is written for piano in 6/8 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is marked with measure numbers 6, 12, 18, 23, and 28 at the beginning of their respective systems. The music features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand, often using slurs and ties. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the sixth system.