Piano Sketch Books

by

LEO ORNSTEIN
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The present volumes are the result of a need I have long felt for original material that would meet the limitations of an immature hand and at the same time give the beginner a valid musical experience.

An awareness of this need has been emphasized through contacts with teachers in various parts of the country. It has also become apparent that the quality of teaching in the present day has risen far above the material available for elementary use. The excellent arrangements of folk songs and classics, and their almost universal popularity for very early grades, testify to the paucity of contemporary writing for beginners. It is my hope that I have, in some small measure, contributed towards meeting this need.

A device to simplify some of the early mechanical difficulties has been to retain, as nearly as possible, a uniform accompaniment. This permits concentration upon the difficulties of one hand at a time, and yet does not jeopardize harmonic variety. Coordination between the hands is established without involving greater difficulty than is ordinarily experienced in playing one hand alone.

It is my feeling that the premature use of contrapuntal material very often is a discouraging factor in the early stages of musical education. Such material is both difficult to manipulate and also makes demands of a musical nature upon the pupil for which obviously he or she would not be prepared.

[Signature]
I'M WISHING

Listen to me play I learned all this in one day.

MY LITTLE BOAT IS SAILING

My little boat went out sailing to sea That was the captain waving to me.

LONG LIVE THE KING

Hi Ho Hi Ho Long live the King Hi Ho Hi Ho Loud his praises sing.
DOWN THE LANE A-WALKING WE GO

Down by the lane we walk and talk and sing our songs of playtime and fun.
Then we come back to skip and hop and into the gate we gaily run.

TAG

TAG AGAIN
DANCING ON THE LAWN

See my feet are trippin' lightly
When my mother plays for me to dance

Now I'll learn to play for sister
So her little toes will have a chance.

IT'S JOLLY IN MAY-TIME
FLYING THE KITE

Can you begin me on a black note?

LET'S GO SKATING

Clap my time before you try to play me.

THE LITTLE FROG ON HIS FIRST WALK
Mr. Rest says: "Don't look at me and think I am unimportant. I am here to give you a chance to get on your mark with all the fingers of your other hand."
PLAY IT NEATLY BOYS AND GIRLS

Briskly

Quite loud

I like to be played with nice firm finger joints. It makes me a lot more snappy.

THE BRAVE LITTLE BOY

THE LITTLE IRISH BOY

Don't play me if you can't count me.
THE GIANT'S CHILDREN AT PLAY

Not too fast  $\tempo = 100$

Hold all my whole notes with your foot and press the pedal down on the second quarter.
BOYS LIKE THIS ONE

Boisterously $J = 176$

Jump up, Mr. Left Hand.

OVER THE SNOW WE GO

Fluently
THE GOOD LITTLE RABBIT

I'm a dot and you have to count me too.

DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT TRANPOSITION IS?

With animation

Mark where you want me to get loud and where soft.
Mark f for the loud and p for the soft or __________ for louder and __________ for softer.
THE CHINESE WATER CARRIER

Mysteriously $\text{ } j = 120$

Can you play me with your eyes shut?

THE LONELY COWBOY

Simply

Did you hear yourself play? Could you make it sound still softer?
THE BOY SCOUT

With animation \( \textit{j} = 100 \)

Quite loud

As loud as you like

As softly as possible, like an echo

Quite loud, like the beginning

Don't lay your fingers down flat on me. Keep them round, so only the tips touch. I am very fussy.
THE DUCKS IN THE POND

Gracefully $\frac{3}{4} = 96$

Can you add a last note in the blank measure that will make me sound finished?

THE VIKING SONG

Moderately $\frac{3}{4} = 92$
Can you beat time while your teacher plays?
LEAP FROG

Briskly \( j = 96 \)

Can you find my chords? They are called I and V or tonic and dominant.

THE PEASANT WOMAN

Smoothly \( j = 126 \)

Can you look at two of my measures and then close your eyes and play them from memory?
DOLLY'S FIRST WALTZ

Can you find two left hand notes that sound well with the right hand, one at X and another at XX?

I'M HOLDING THE LADDER, DON'T MISS YOUR STEP

Vivaciously \( \dot{\text{J}} = 126 \)

Did you notice my patterns? They are alike in the first and fifth measures. Where else do you see the same pattern?
SH! THE DOLLIES ARE GOING TO SLEEP

Gracefully $j = 80$

A BABY CANON

Smoothly $j = 84$
KITTENS AT PLAY

Gaily $j = 152$

Let's play it again to make sure we know it.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Vivaciously $j = 126$

Can you find out where the bar lines belong and what the time signature should be?
THE WHISTLING LITTLE BAKER'S BOY

Lively but without haste \( J = 92 \)

PRANCING WITH DADDY

Playfully \( J = 108 \)
THE ENGLISH OFFICER AND HIS SERVANT HAMMID

Moderately animated $J = 160$
IT'S HONEY AT SUPPER TIME

Simply \( \frac{3}{4} = 92 \)

Please end all my phrases softly.

THE LITTLE RUSSIAN TWINS

Sadly \( \frac{3}{4} = 112 \)
DON'T PUSH - STAY IN LINE

With animation \( \text{\( \frac{4}{152} \)} \)

Loud and vigorously

When you see dots over the notes, let them go quickly. It is always a warning they may bite if you stay on them.
SPLASHING IN THE BROOK

Quickly \( \text{\textit{dq}} \cdot \frac{72}{\text{beat}} \)

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
& 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
\hline
\text{\textit{dq}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} \\
\text{\textit{dq}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} \\
\text{\textit{dq}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} \\
\text{\textit{dq}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} & \boxed{\text{\textit{dq}}} \\
\end{array}
\]
THE LITTLE SAILBOAT

Simply $d = 96$

\begin{align*}
\text{Music notation}\end{align*}
MY, WHAT A DIN THE CUCKOOS ARE MAKING!

Not too fast  \( \frac{d}{\text{beat}} = 112 \)

Gradually louder and with more animation

Play me over until I feel easy.
BUT THE LITTLE GIRLS LIKE THIS ONE

Gaily but not too boisterously  \( \text{\( \frac{1}{\text{2}} \)} \) = 126

Fairly softly

Gradually slower and softer

Play it again and give me good strong accents.
EVENING AT THE RANCH

Lively $j = 132$

\[\text{Piano notation with musical symbols} \]
LISTEN TO THE DRUMS

Lively and with force  \( \frac{\text{f}}{\text{f}} \) 138

Boys and Girls, Here is your chance give it all you can.

We are tied. Don't let go of us. pp

Softer and softer
DANCE OF THE MOUJIKS

With considerable fire and firmness \( \text{\textit{j}} = 144 \)

\[ \text{\textit{Slow down}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{Hustle, get back}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{in time}} \]
Mr. Thumb says in the 2nd measure: "Tuck me under before you play Mr. 3d Finger. I don't want him to get ahead of me."
Merrily $J = 120$

ROUND AND ROUND WE GO

Slow down
back in time

a bit slower
Sketch Book Part II

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With great simplicity  \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{d}} = 132 \)

```
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{softly and as smoothly as possible} & \\
\text{with a little more tone} & \\
\text{slightly sotter} & \\
\text{like the beginning} & \\
as softly as possible & \\
pp & \\
\end{align*}
\]
```
IT’S RAINING AND NO ONE AT HOME

Sadly \( \text{\textit{j}} = 75 \)

Tempo I
OF ANCIENT TIMES In the style of Rameau

Quaintly and with old fashioned charm $ \frac{\text{\textit{J}}}{\text{\textit{J}}} = 168$
DANCE OF THE ORIENTALS

With abandon $j = 144$

play it with a large tone

ff
THE BARGE THROUGH THE MIST

Quietly  \( \text{\textfrac{d}{} = 108} \)

\( pp \) as smoothly as possible

like the beginning

\( pp \)
THE MYSTERIOUS JUNGLE

Quite dragily $\text{ } \frac{1}{\text{ } 1} = 76$

pp softly

slower and slower all away to the end
GRANDMA'S WALTZ  Long Before You Were Born

Leisurely  $d = 176$

with a good deal of gentleness and grace

a bit slower back in time
COUNTRY FAIR

Briskly $\frac{d}{\text{bar}} = 80$

f with a good attack

a bit slower

f back in time
THE LONELY FISHERMAN

Without haste \( \text{d} = 66 \)

\[
\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]

\[
\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]

\[
\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]

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\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
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\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
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\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]

\[
\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]

\[
\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]

\[
\text{\( \frac{3}{1} \)}
\]
take your time

like the beginning

pp
NORWEGIAN COUPLE

The Husband

With great simplicity yet feeling \( \frac{d}{d} = 144 \)

[Musical notation image]
NORWEIGIAN COUPLE

With a bit more warmth  \( \text{\textbf{\textit{j}} = 144} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{\textbf{\textit{j}} = 144} & \\
\end{align*}
\]
Simply and modestly $\frac{1}{4} = 152$
with gradually increasing loudness

diminish your volume

softly
THE FADED DAGUERREOTYPE

Smoothly and evenly, take your time. \( \text{i} = 72 \)
LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL

Sadly and with feeling  \[ J = 168 \]

gently

with expression

softer

slower and slower to the end

pp

ppp
MINIATURE CHORALE

Simply, without haste \( \dot{\text{d}} = 80 \)
IN THE SWING

With abandon \( \mathcal{J} = 184 \)
SISTER'S PIECE

Gently — Don't pound  \( \frac{d}{d} = 184 \)

gradually louder and louder

gradually softer and softer \( f \) back to the original
time

slightly slower
HAPPY LITTLE RABBIT

Lively \( J = 116 \)

S068-58
ff with large tone

softly as an echo

like the beginning

p

ff with force

pp as from a

distance

softly and neatly

p
BIRTHDAY PARTY

Brightly $J = 66$

\[ f \text{ strictly in time} \]
THE FIRST SLEIGH RIDE

Gaily $\frac{1}{4} = 108$

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NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE

Mysteriously $\frac{\text{d} \text{=}}{\text{116}}$

\[ \text{without hurry} \]
\[ pp \]

\[ \text{molto rit.} \]
\[ pp \]
WOODWINDS AND BRASSES

Seriously $\frac{\text{r}}{\text{s}} = 152$

Flute

Clarinet

Oboe

Bassoon

Horns
A BIT OF IRISH

Gaily \( \frac{\text{}}{\text{}} \) \( \frac{\text{}}{\text{}} \) \( \frac{\text{}}{\text{}} \)

carefree and with humor