

symonspiano

Student Piano Concert November 2018



Farnham Methodist Church Hall
50 South Street
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 7RN

Lullaby (Daxbock)

“This has to be played gently and quietly to sound like a lullaby. The ‘p’ in bar one stands for ‘piano’ which is Italian for soft. The ‘rit’ at the end means slow down which makes it sound like the music is going to sleep.”

Vivienne**Violin And Cello (Harwood /
Waterman)**

“It’s happy and makes me feel like two people are having a conversation.”

**A Sad Story (Harwood /
Waterman)**

“This uses both hands together at the same time. It is a very sad piece.”

Samuel**Hand In Hand (Crossland)**

“I’ve chosen this because it’s a very jazzy piece and jazzy is my favourite style. I really like the dynamics and articulation especially on the black notes, which give it a jazzy sound.”

**The Enchanted Garden
(Strecke)**

“I like Enchanted Garden because it is extremely relaxing and I especially like the middle part because it really give it some flow. This is achieved by the constant flowing quavers moving from the left hand to the right.”

Creaky Floorboards

“This is full of staccato notes and dynamic markings which make the piece sound creepy. There are lots of accidentals as well (sharps and flats occurring throughout the score which are not in the key signature).”

Sunrise (Johnson)

“This piece has lots of B flats in it and I have to play both hands together. It is a pretty piece and has the same rhythm as a well known nursery rhyme.”

Old McDonald Had A Farm

“I have practiced this a lot and am trying to get it quicker. There are some chords in the middle section which is where we play lots of notes at once.”

Carry Me Back To Old Virginia

“I like this piece because it sounds nice and I am playing it as a duet with my teacher. A duet is a piece where two people play at together.”

Three Blind Mice (Trad.)

“This piece is full of F sharps because it is in the key of G major. It has lots of ties which mean you have to join two notes together. In this piece there are six beat notes but each bar can only hold three, so two notes have to be tied together.”

**Mary Had A Little Lamb
(Trad.)**

“My sister helped me to learn this when I started piano.”

Yankee Doodle (Trad.)

"I play this on the ocarina as well!"

Stephanie

8

When The Saints Go Marching In (Trad. arr. Bartels)

"This is a jazzed up gospel hymn sound. I like to play the intro staccato and spiky to add more punch. The melody swaps between hands, allowing both hands to be the star of the show. The dynamics make it feel more jazzy and alive and this gives it personality."

Rosie

9

Rowboat (Kukuck)

"This piece is in a minor key which I like, but it has a weird twist at the end because lots of the notes become sharpened which makes the music modulate (change key) to E major. I like bars three and four because it makes me think of a garden."

Joseph

10

Star Wars Theme (Williams)

"I like Star Wars and the theme music is fun to play. I will be playing it as a duet, which means that my counting has to be very good. It is exciting music."

Sophie

11

Space Between (Carson, Cameron)

"This song is from the film Descendants 2 and I will be playing the melody. There are four chords which go with the melody to form the complete song. The rhythm of the melody is tricky."

Whirleybird (Wedgewood)

"I really like the title. The music is bouncy and sounds joyful. It is fun to listen to. It is in F Major, which means all the Bs are flattened. There are three beats in every bar like a waltz."

Spick And Span (Wedgewood)

"I like this piece because of the tonality and there is a tierce de Picardie at the end. It starts in F major and ends in D minor with a surprise last chord in D major. It sounds exciting."

Hocus Pocus (Wedgewood)

"It is fun to play because it sounds spooky. This is because it is set in a D harmonic minor scale. The left hand is staccato so I have to play the keys like they are hot to touch."

**The Winner Takes It All
(ABBA)**

"I will be playing this as a duet. The melody reaches its highest notes during the chorus at the most dramatic part."

**Somewhere Over the Rainbow
(Arlen)**

"I am playing as a trio with two of my friends. The bass line has a G major scale in it."

In Dreams (Shore)

“This piece has got a lot of ties, which means I have to hold the notes for longer. There are lots of ‘p’s, ‘mp’s, ‘mf’s, ‘f’s and ‘ff’s which means I have to play at different levels of loud and soft.”

Hedwig’s Theme (Williams)

“I chose this piece because it has lots of staccato notes in it, meaning I have to pretend the keys are boiling hot. There are also lots of pauses in this piece so I have to rest my fingers on the keys. There are some sharps and flats as well so I have to press the black keys. Chris will be playing this as a duet with me. Chris will be playing these two as a duet with me.”

SHORT REFRESHMENT BREAK

Minuet (Reinagle)

“A minuet is an old type of dance, similar to a waltz with three beats in every bar. I have to use cross phrasing in this piece, which is where both hands play different articulation (staccato in one hand and legato in the other).”

Bourree (Graupner)

“This is a nice gentle piece in E minor. The composer lived a very long time ago. A Bourree is a type of dance, so this piece was written to be danced to.”

Sunrise On The Matterhorn
(incl. performer’s own
improvisation) (Rollin)

Skulking Moon (improvisatory composition by the performer)

"I am playing a grade three piece intertwined with parts of a piece I am composing called 'Skulking Moon'. The moods and titles of the two pieces contrast major and minor, light and dark, and both are built on chords, both solid and broken."

Inigo

20

Sonata In A, Hob XVI-12 Finale (Haydn)

"This beautiful final movement from one of Haydn's sonata's is typical of the classical period. It calls for a delicate expression and lots of sensitive playing."

Tom

21

Proud Mary (Fogerty)

"I am preparing to play this song in a Christmas concert with other musicians playing drums and singing. As the piano player I have to accompany the singers, providing the rhythm, bass and the harmony."

Aimee

22

Let It Go (Lopez & Lopez)

"This song is from the Disney film Frozen. It is about freedom. My right hand will be playing the melody and my left hand, the chords which provide the harmony."

Jupiter (Holst)

“This is a solo piano arrangement of Jupiter, a piece from Holst’s Planets Suite. The pieces reflect the characters of the Roman gods the planets are named from. This piece is calm, serene and yet powerful and grand. The strong melody reflects this. This arrangement of the theme is in ternary form, where the beginning and the end are the same, but played in different registers of the piano.”

Waltz In A

“I like the dynamics, especially the crescendos, though over all the dynamics are subtle. The piece makes me think of a ballet. Being a waltz there is a strong feel of three beats to a bar and the piece is in A Major.”

**Sonata In Eb, Hob XVI 49
Third Movement (Haydn)**

“This final movement from a sonata by Haydn starts in Eb major in the exposition then is transposed to Eb minor in the development section. There are some tricky polyrhythms which combine triplets in one hand with pairs of quavers in the other. There is a lot of dynamic variation but, being very classical, the dynamic range of the piece is not as broad as in the later romantic period. I have recently started learning this piece for my grade 7 and will be performing the first two thirds of the movement.”

Beach Bug Boogie (Myers)

“This fast jazz piece is based on the twelve bar blues format. The left hand provides an unrelenting drive and it’s a real show piece.”

Wheat Sheaf Rag (Lyons)

“Inspired by the ‘Sunflower Slow Drag’ by Scott Joplin, the Wheat Sheaf Rag is a fast paced piece based around stride and syncopation.”

Railroad Rag (Lyons)

“This piece is experimental ragtime, with many different verses and styles of early jazz.”

Both pieces written by the performer.

**Nocturne In C Sharp Minor
(Chopin)**

“The C# minor nocturne was published 26 years after Chopin’s death in 1849, with a dedication to his sister Louise for her to play it ‘before she practices my second concerto’. The nocturne has some unusual features. These include the repetition of the rather mournful opening two bars, a mazurka (a traditional Polish dance) that appears suddenly in the middle in a way that feels a little unconnected to the rest of the nocturne, and the very simple final notes - just two C sharps at opposite ends of the keyboard. I like this quirkiness and unpredictability, which enhances the passionate nature of the music that, like most of Chopin’s work, evokes both sadness and joy. Perhaps the middle class moral strictures of nineteenth century Europe meant that composers had to express their emotions mainly through their music. This is for me what makes the C# minor nocturne very satisfying to play and, I hope, enjoyable to listen to.”

**Something Just Like This (The
Chainsmokers / Coldplay)**

“This arrangement is cleverly constructed to provide a subtly different take on each verse and chorus from the song, in order to keep it interesting. As a solo piano arrangement of a complete rock song, the performer has to provide the bass line, melody, rhythm and harmony (chords) all at once!”

**'Pathetique' Sonata No 8
Opus 13, Second Movement
(Beethoven)**

"The Adagio cantabile movement of the Beethoven Pathetique Sonata is well known and one of my favourite pieces of music. There is a beautiful melody line which can 'sing out'. This melody repeats itself throughout the movement with varying accompanying notes beneath. The dynamics are typical of Beethoven. The movement has a lovely expressive ending."

**Prelude and Fugue in C Sharp
Major, Well Tempered Clavier
Book II (Bach)**

"Typically a fugue is a piece of music where two or more 'voices' overlap, each taking it in turns to announce the 'subject', a bit like two or more singers all singing at the same time, with each getting turns throughout to sing the main motif. This motif, or subject, sometimes appears using different notes (but the same rhythmic and intervallic shape), in inversion (upside down) or retrograde (back to front), but it should always be played in such a way that it is recognisable. This is achieved by, for example, using consistent articulation when the subject is played, allowing the listener's ear to more easily pick out its familiar character."

This fugue is very unorthodox. It contains a technique known as stretto, where the subject overlaps in several of the voices, with one starting before the other has finished. Bach also uses diminution, (shrinking the subject) and augmentation (making the notes longer, expanding it). To make things more fiddly, there is also a second subject!

I adore this piece because practically every time I sit down to practice it, I spot something I have never spotted before.

The prelude (which precedes the fugue in performance) is, like the fugue, contrapuntal, meaning that it has many layers of melody which flow over one another. Just like in a choral piece sung by people, the individual notes of each voice combine to form chords (harmony) when they overlap."

END

Upcoming Events

Spring Student Concert
Saturday 30th March 2018
Farnham

Time and location to be confirmed.

Open to all students, with close family welcome in the audience. Open to all ages, genres of repertoire and levels of experience. A non-competitive event to encourage musicians to show off their hard work and enjoy the buzz of performing in front of others.

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