

Teaching and performance notes

Supersonics Book Two

1. Yeah I'm Cool

What can I say - you have to "play it cool". Exaggerate your musical gestures in this piece to achieve the "too-cool" look required.

2. Terry Tortellini

As you can tell from the title, this is an Italian-inspired piece (Terry Tortellini is just alliteration - this piece wasn't named after any particular Terry). Perform it with a sense of fun - you can really play around with the phrases it you want.

3. Stomp

Using the French rhythm names is useful when learning this piece (i.e. ti-ti ta tika-tika ta). Clap before you play. The distinctive "stomp" feel to this piece is created by the placement of the left hand notes on beats two and four.

4. Loneliness

An effective legato pedal technique is required for this piece. As the title suggests, this is quite a sad piece. Make sure that this character is conveyed when you perform Loneliness.

5. Synko

Use the three-step method outlined in the notes for supersonics one to help with any rhythmic difficulties. As an interesting side note - this is the first piece that I composed!

6. Funky Chicken

The coordination between the hands required for this piece may prove challenging for some students. It is well worth it, however, as this piece is great fun to play!

7. Pretty Piece

Another example of one of my early pieces. As is made blatantly obvious by the title I think that this piece is quite "pretty". Other fingerings are possible for this piece (and may be desirable depending on the level of the student). As noted in the piece pedal is optional.

8. Lullaby

This piece requires a delicate touch to fully achieve the necessary mood. Careful phrasing and a sensitive use of dynamics will help to lull the listener to sleep.

9. Walkin' the Dog

The rhythmic cue of "1 2 3 4 1 2 Long-Short Long-Short etc" may be useful in mastering the left hand of this piece. Take careful note of the suggested fingering and make sure that the tempo remains within the "moderato" range.

10. Reflections

The first step in learning this piece is to identify all the patterns used - there are many! If all the patterns have been identified then this piece becomes quite easy to master. Reflections can be a very effective concert piece.

11. Going Home

This piece progressively gains intensity as you approach "home". Make sure that the melodic line "sings out" over the top of the accompaniment.

12. Battle of the Ants

Battle of the Ants is great fun to perform! If you carefully observe all the markings on the score and have a good technique then this piece can really be quite impressive.

13. Funk

This piece challenges and helps to build coordination between the hands. The opening left hand rhythmic pattern can either be counted out (1 2 and 3 4) or drilled using Long Long Short (or tum tum ta). I use a highlighter to mark the syncopated patterns to aid coordination when the piece is played hands together (eg in bar 13 I would highlight the second left hand G to the right hand G). The usual 3-step rhythmic process is useful for bars such as this (i.e. the combined rhythm for bar 13 would be tum-ti ta ta).

14. Salsa

Salsa is a Latin-inspired piece. Try listening to some Latin-American music to get the right "feel" for this style of piece.