

David
SCHIFF

Six Songs Without Words
(and an Encore)
for Piano

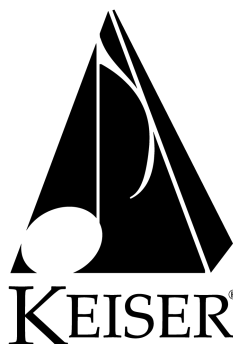


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Six Songs Without Words (and an Encore) for Piano

for Portland Piano International

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Six Songs Without Words (and an Encore)

1. Simple Song
2. Wedding Dance
3. Ballad (for B.E.)
4. Elegy (Blues for A.C.)
5. Tarantella for Puck
6. Venetian Boat Song

Encore: Ballad for M.P.A.

Composer's Note:

When Portland Piano International asked me to propose a project for new piano compositions that could be played with a work from the standard repertory I immediately thought of composing a group of pieces that could be played with selections from Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words. I first played Mendelssohn's pieces when I was eight years old and they were the first works I encountered that seemed to place access to musical beauty in my own hands. I have tried here to write pieces with a contemporary feeling that are within reach of younger players in the hope that they can kindle the love of music that Mendelssohn's atmospheric and perfectly crafted miniatures inspired in me.

Ballad for M.P.A. was commissioned by Carl Abbott in honor of his wife, Margery Post Abbott.

Six Songs Without Words and an Encore

David Schiff

1. Simple Song

Flowing ♩ = 112 (♩ = ♩)

p *mp* *mf* *mf*

2. Wedding Dance

for Daniel and Emmanuel

David Schiff

Joyful ♩ = 108

f

ff

leggero
p

mf

p

mp

f

3. Ballad (for B.E.)

Moderato cantabile

The musical score is written for piano in B-flat major, 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of staves. The first system begins with a treble clef staff containing a melody starting on G4, marked *mf*. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support with chords, marked *p molto legato*. The second system continues the melody with triplet markings (3) and includes a key signature change to three flats (B-flat major to D-flat major) in the third measure. The third system features more triplet markings and a key signature change back to two flats (B-flat major) in the third measure. The fourth system continues the melodic development with triplet markings. The fifth system includes a key signature change to one flat (B-flat major to A-flat major) in the third measure and is marked *rit.* (ritardando). The sixth system concludes the piece with a key signature change back to B-flat major in the third measure, marked *a tempo* and *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings (*f*, *p*, *mf*, *rit.*, *a tempo*).

4. Elegy (Blues for A.C.)

Sostenuto, sempre espressivo ♩ = 72

The musical score is written for piano and features a complex, changing time signature. The piece begins in 4/4 time and transitions through 5/4, 3/4, 6/4, and 3/2. The tempo is marked 'Sostenuto, sempre espressivo' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The first system starts with a *mf* dynamic and includes the instruction '(with pedal)'. The second system includes markings for *rit.*, *a tempo*, and *cantabile*, with dynamics *mp* and *p*. The third system continues the melodic and harmonic development. The fourth system concludes with a *rit.* marking. The music is characterized by long, expressive melodic lines in the right hand and rich, textured accompaniment in the left hand, often using sustained chords and pedal points.

5. Tarantella for Puck

Presto leggerissimo ♩. = 152

The musical score for "5. Tarantella for Puck" is written for piano and right hand. It begins in G major (one sharp) and 9/16 time. The tempo is "Presto leggerissimo" with a quarter note equal to 152 beats per minute. The score consists of six systems, each with a piano (p) and right-hand (RH) staff. The piece features a variety of time signatures: 9/16, 12/16, and 6/16. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p secco* (piano, dry). The score includes trills, slurs, and a "Ped." (pedal) section marked with an asterisk (*). The piece concludes with a final cadence in 12/16 time.

6. Venetian Boat Song

[illegible]

Encore: Ballad for M.P.A.

Slow and gentle ♩ = 56

sempre cantabile e rubato

The musical score is written for piano and features five systems of music. The first system begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The tempo is marked 'Slow and gentle' with a quarter note equal to 56 beats per minute. The performance style is 'sempre cantabile e rubato'. The first system includes a piano (p) dynamic marking and a 'with pedal' instruction. The second system includes a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic marking. The third system includes a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The fourth system includes a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic marking. The fifth system includes a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The score is characterized by flowing, arched melodic lines in the right hand, often featuring triplets, and a steady, rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the fifth system.