

The
Music
of the
Spheres

A Solo for the Beginning Pianist

by
Brent Hugh

Primer-Level 2

The Music of the Spheres

Brent Hugh, 1994

Steadily; with a sense of purpose ♩=96

Musical notation for measures 1-5. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 1 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measures 2-5 are marked piano-piano (*pp*). The notation includes a repeat sign at the end of measure 5. Above the first staff, there are two sets of chord diagrams: the first set shows a C major triad (C-E-G) and a C minor triad (C-Eb-Gb); the second set shows a B-flat major triad (Bb-D-F) and a B-flat minor triad (Bb-Db-Fb).

1



mp

ped. ----- (hold pedal throughout)

Musical notation for measures 6-11. The piece continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. Measures 6-11 are marked piano-piano (*pp*). The notation features sustained chords in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

6

pp

Musical notation for measures 12-15. The piece continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. Measures 12-15 are marked piano-piano (*pp*). The notation features sustained chords in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

12

pp

Musical notation for measures 16-21. The piece continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. Measures 16-21 are marked mezzo-forte (*mf*). The notation features sustained chords in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

16

pp

Musical score for measures 22-25. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass line in the bass clef consists of quarter notes: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. A mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking is present in the first measure.

22

Musical score for measures 26-31. The treble clef features a sustained chord of G4, B-flat4, and D5, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The bass clef continues with the same quarter-note sequence as in the previous system: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4.

26

Musical score for measures 32-35. The melody in the treble clef is identical to the previous system: G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass line is also identical: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. A pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic marking is present in the first measure.

32

Musical score for measures 36-41. The treble clef features a sustained chord of G4, B-flat4, and D5, with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The bass clef continues with the same quarter-note sequence: G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4.

36

Musical score for measures 42-45. The piece is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The music is marked *pp* (pianissimo). The right hand plays a simple ascending and descending eighth-note pattern, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

42

Musical score for measures 46-51. The piece continues in the same key and time signature. The right hand features a melodic line with some rests and a final half-note. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. A repeat sign is present at the beginning of this system.

46

(*Leg.* . held from the beginning)

Musical score for measures 52-59. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The right hand has a melodic line with some rests and a final half-note. The left hand features a complex accompaniment with many beamed eighth notes. The piece is marked *Leg.* (legato). A *Gua* (guilt) marking is present above the right hand in the final measure.

52

(*Gua*)

Musical score for measures 60-63. The piece is marked *ppp* (pianississimo). The right hand has a melodic line with some rests and a final half-note. The left hand features a complex accompaniment with many beamed eighth notes. The piece is marked *Leg.* (legato). A *Gua* (guilt) marking is present above the right hand in the final measure.

60

(*Gua*)

The Music of the Spheres

The music of the spheres is an idea that has been discussed by writers and philosophers for thousands of years. The music of the spheres isn't actual music that you can hear. Instead, it is an imaginary kind of harmony. It represents the beauty and wholeness of God's universe, which, from the smallest to the greatest, works together in a glorious unity.

Many writers have suggested that the reason we humans love to listen to, play, and write music is because in some small way it reflects the order and beauty of God's creations. The music of the spheres is the "real" music. Our everyday music—made up of mere sounds—is but a faint echo of that great and glorious harmony.

Suggestions for learning *The Music of the Spheres*

The Music of the Spheres is a solo for the beginning pianist. It is designed to sound difficult and impressive, while actually being quite easy to play.

The Music of the Spheres can easily be taught as a rote piece to a pianist who has only had a few months of lessons, or it can be assigned as a regular piece to a more advanced student. Students are ready to learn *The Music of the Spheres* when they can play the C, F, Db, and Ab five finger patterns, hands together, at a moderately fast speed.

The student should first learn to play the four measure episode, measures 2-5. Once the hand position is found, this is quite easy because the hands are playing a mirror image of each other. (And yes, each hand really does have its own key signature, and the key signature for the left hand really is Bb, Ab, and Gb, and nothing else!)

Once this has been mastered, the student can learn the four right hand melodies (mm. 6-11, 16-21, 26-31, and 36-41). Notice that there are only four different chords used in all these melodies. The four chords are the outer notes of the C, F, Db, and Ab five finger patterns.

The final passage can be practiced next. Notice that it alternates the same two chords up the entire span of the keyboard.

The damper pedal should be held for almost the entire piece. It is changed once, in measure 52, and then released in measure 59.