

A whiter shade of pale

Words and Music by Keith Reid and Gary Brooker

Andante (♩ = 69)

mp

This was the first collaboration of the group Procol Harlem, and the one for which they are mostly remembered. Loosely drawn from J. S. Bach's *Air On A G String*, the song was a number one hit in the UK in 1967. Other recordings include those by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Everly Brothers and Willie Nelson.

Your playing should be very steady and smooth so that the piece has the sense of an elegant procession descending a grand staircase. The left hand takes measured steps down the scale and, even at bars 7 and 8, this idea continues, taken up for just a moment in the upper part in the right hand.

A musical joke

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Scherzando (♩ = 88)

mf leggiero

4
2

2
1

5
3

4
2

2
1

5
3

1
3

5
3

1
4

4
2

2
1

8

2

5

5

cresc.

This theme is taken from *Ein Musikalischer Spass* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791), a piece that was written literally as a joke. Composed in 1787, the four movement work for two horns and strings was meant as a send up of those composers that Mozart considered to be ‘incompetent’. You may also recognise the tune as the theme to the BBC’s *Horse of the Year* programme.

The performance direction *Scherzando* means ‘jokingly’. Originally this tune was intended by Mozart to be a playful dig at the popular music of his time. Once you have learned where your fingers should be you can enjoy bringing the piece up to speed and establish a count of one minim to the bar. Give the notes a light, detached feel and take your piano out for a brisk trot!

Habañera

(from *Carmen*)

Georges Bizet

Andantino (♩ = 69)

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major), and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Andantino' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The first system begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The second system includes a mezzo-forte (*p*) dynamic. The third system includes a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score features a steady bass line in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand, with various fingerings and articulations indicated.

Habañera is taken from *Carmen*, an opera in four acts by Bizet (1838–1875). The opera is set in Spain in the early part of the nineteenth century and depicts Spanish gypsy and peasant life. The first performance of the opera in March 1875 was not particularly well received – by the last act the auditorium was almost empty!

This is a Spanish dance with a very crisp rhythm, imagine castanets! Look carefully at the rhythm of each part and practise hands separately. It's a great one for dynamic control because it calls for quiet attack. There's a sense of things being held under pressure, waiting to explode. Don't miss the fortissimo when it comes!