

Messing About in a Boat

“Ground Swell” (Hopper)

Pam Wedgwood

This Hopper painting is one of my favourites. The blue sky, the rolling sea and relaxed figures on the boat offer a sense of calm and serenity. It inspired me to write a relaxed, fun and swinging piece that mimics the rocking and splashing of a bunch of friends messing about in a boat.

“There’s nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.” — Kenneth Grahame

In swing tempo – trying to keep afloat! (♩ = 100) $\text{♩} = \overset{\frown}{\text{♩}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♩}}$

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of five systems of music. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and includes a piano (p) section. The second system continues with mf. The third system starts at measure 10. The fourth system starts at measure 15 and features a forte (f) dynamic. The fifth system starts at measure 19 and returns to mf. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Moonlight Bossa

"Lighthouse" (Getty images)

Pam Wedgwood

This piece was inspired by the unique colours used in this vibrant painting. The piece is written in a bossa nova style so play it in a bright and breezy way with lots of energy.

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank! / Here will we sit and let the sounds of music Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night / Become the touches of sweet harmony." — William Shakespeare

In a bright bossa nova style

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five systems of music. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece is marked 'In a bright bossa nova style'.

- System 1 (Measures 1-5):** Starts with a piano (mp) dynamic. The right hand has chords and eighth notes, with fingerings 3 1, 5 3, and 3 1 above the first three measures. The left hand has a steady eighth-note bass line. Dynamics range from mp to mf.
- System 2 (Measures 6-9):** Measure 6 starts with a forte (ff) dynamic. The right hand features a complex chordal texture with accents. Measure 9 has a mezzo-forte (mp) dynamic. Fingerings 1 2 1 4 3 2 are shown above the right hand in measure 9.
- System 3 (Measures 10-14):** Measure 10 starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth notes and chords. The left hand continues with eighth notes.
- System 4 (Measures 15-19):** Measure 15 starts with a mezzo-forte (mp) dynamic. The right hand has a steady eighth-note melody. The left hand has a bass line. Dynamics range from mp to ff.
- System 5 (Measures 20-24):** Measure 20 starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 21 has a forte (ff) dynamic. The right hand has a complex chordal texture with accents. Measure 24 has a mezzo-forte (mp) dynamic. Fingerings 4 2 1 are shown above the right hand in measure 24.