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Play Nice

for two toy pianists



EVBVD MUSIC

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Play Nice (1997)

When Elizabeth Panzer asked me for a harp piece, I came up with an idea for a big piece based on a poem by Linda Norton about knitting and the Aran Islands. I still plan to make that piece, but as the deadline neared, I realized I will need more time to write it, so instead I decided to work with a sweet redemptive pattern I had written as an underscore for an audiobook production of *Gerald's Game*, one of Stephen King's more horrific novels. The resulting piece is totally diatonic, doesn't even require two octaves of the harp, uses standard minimalist variation techniques, and in virtually every way plays nice.

I think it's actually a mean little thing.



While the piece was originally written for harp, I think it could work well on toy piano, and perhaps on vibes as well (or on any inherently "pretty" instrument that can get nasty when you hit it too hard.)



I have chosen to indicate dynamics with accent marks because it's easier to read once you get used to it. The idea is that unmarked notes play at the generally marked dynamic level, notes marked - should be one notch louder, and notes marked > should be two notches louder. For example, at a generally piano level, notes marked - would be played mezzo-piano and notes marked > would be played mezzo-forte. When the general level works up to mezzo-forte, you should exaggerate the accents, which may in fact mean that your general level stays lower than mezzo-forte but the differential between unmarked, - , and > becomes greater. (You do want the insistence of the repeated G's and A's to get somewhat obnoxious.)

Play Nice is about five minutes long.

57

64

71

78

85

G

92

Musical notation for measures 92-98. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melody in the upper staff and a bass line in the lower staff. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in both staves. A vertical bar line is placed after measure 95, with the letter 'G' in a box above it.

99

Musical notation for measures 99-105. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melody in the upper staff and a bass line in the lower staff.

H

106

Musical notation for measures 106-112. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melody in the upper staff and a bass line in the lower staff. A vertical bar line is placed after measure 109, with the letter 'H' in a box above it.

113

Musical notation for measures 113-119. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melody in the upper staff and a bass line in the lower staff.

I

120

Musical notation for measures 120-126. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melody in the upper staff and a bass line in the lower staff. A vertical bar line is placed after measure 123, with the letter 'I' in a box above it.

127

Musical score for measures 127-133. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, including rests and ties. A brace on the left side groups the two staves.

134

Musical score for measures 134-140. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats. A vertical bar line is present in measure 137, with a small box containing the letter 'J' above it. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests.

141

Musical score for measures 141-147. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests.

148

Musical score for measures 148-154. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats. A vertical bar line is present in measure 151, with a small box containing the letter 'K' above it. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests.

155

Musical score for measures 155-161. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests.

162

mp

mp

169

176

mf

mf

183

190

mf

197

Musical score for measures 197-201. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It contains sparse notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, and a whole rest. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It contains a continuous eighth-note accompaniment: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, with a repeat sign under each note.

202

Musical score for measures 202-206. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It contains sparse notes: a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, and a whole rest. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It contains a continuous eighth-note accompaniment: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, with a repeat sign under each note.