

Random Acts of Kindness

for Soprano Saxophone and Piano

for Eugene Rousseau

Don Freund
2015

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Random Acts of Kindness

Even though the intense lyricism of the song that forms the core of *Random Acts of Kindness* is tinged with bittersweetness, it is set in a world of hope, empathy, and touches of whimsy and playfulness.

Too often, I believe, our attention is turned towards the dark side of our human nature, but if we take the time to notice, we can find a world filled with inexplicable selflessness, seemingly random acts of kindness, warmth and concern, strangers who don't hesitate to offer help and a glow of humanity at any opportunity. When I think of Gene Rousseau, I recognize him as a personification of this grace. And so, in celebrating his retirement, it seems appropriate to write a piece reflecting on all the acts of kindness he has offered to so many as a performer, teacher, colleague, and very special human being.

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

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Random Acts of Kindness

for Soprano Saxophone and Piano
for Julia Nolan's performance at the
Retirement Celebration for Eugene Rousseau

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♩ = ca. 52, with a great deal of expressive rubato

Soprano Saxophone
(score is in C)

mf, reflective

touches of Pedal

4 *push a little...*

intense

poco marcato

7 *relax*

slow for cadence ♩ = 52 (tempo primo)

p

p

p

10

This musical score is for measures 10 and 11 of 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. It is written for three staves: a single treble staff at the top for the vocal part, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below for the piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 10 features a vocal melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a single eighth note in the left hand. Measure 11 continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the vocal part and *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, beams, and slurs.

13

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

mp *f*

8va

P P

16

held back *tempo agitato*

f

8va

p *f, heavy* *f*

mf *p* *f*

18 *slowing* *largamente* ♩ = 52 (tempo primo)

f, rich

P P P

20

f *f* *f*

P P P

23

held back

P P P

25

slower *slowing* *still slower*

mf, sweet *mp, wistful*

mf *mp*

27

$\text{♩} = 80$ (*subito tempo giusto*) $\text{♩} = 60$ $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 52$

mf, bright *f, singing* *mf, perky* *f, heavy*

slowing *slowing*

p *mf* *mf* *p*

29 $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 72$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$

f *slowing* *heavy*

P P P P P P P

31 $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 60$

p, light *mf* *slowing* *f*

mf, bright

32 $\text{♩} = 80$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing*

p *f* *slowing* *mf* *f* *slowing*

bring out thumbs (middle voice)

P

34 $\text{♩} = 72$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing*

f, playful *ff*

(P) P P P

36 ♩ = 72, *tempo giusto*

Measures 36-38 of the musical score. The piece is in 4/8 time. Measure 36 has a treble staff with a whole note G#4 and a bass staff with a whole note F#3. Measure 37 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 38 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Dynamics include *f* in the bass staff of measure 36, *p* in the treble staff of measure 37, and *p, light* and *crisp* in measure 38.

Measures 39-41 of the musical score. The piece is in 4/8 time. Measure 39 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 40 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 41 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Dynamics include *mf, lyrical* in the treble staff of measure 39, *mf, "staccato"* in the treble staff of measure 40, and *no Pedal* in the bass staff of measure 41.

Measures 42-44 of the musical score. The piece is in 4/8 time. Measure 42 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 43 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 44 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Dynamics include *playful* in the treble staff of measure 42.

Measures 45-47 of the musical score. The piece is in 4/8 time. Measure 45 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 46 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Measure 47 has a treble staff with a half note G#4 and a bass staff with a half note F#3. Dynamics include *f* in the treble staff of measure 45, *f* and *p* in the treble staff of measure 46, and *mf* in the treble staff of measure 47.

49

f

P P P P P

51

$\text{♩} = 48$ $\text{♩} = 144$

ff > mf *f* *fp*

slowing

ff *mf*

55

$\text{♩} = 60$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 72$

f *molto espressivo* *p* *mf* *mf*

58

$\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 80$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 48$

mf *f*

61 *push...* ♩ = 60 *slower* ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 48

63 ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 58 ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 52

65 *push...* ♩ = 60 *slowing* ♩ = 52

67

The musical score consists of seven measures, numbered 61 to 67. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 at measure 62 and remains 5/4 through measure 67. The right hand (RH) and left hand (LH) are both present. The RH often plays a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the LH provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics are indicated by letters: *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Performance instructions include *push...*, *slowing*, and *f, intense*. Measure numbers 61, 63, 65, and 67 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems. Tempo markings with quarter note equivalents are provided: ♩ = 60, ♩ = 66, ♩ = 48, ♩ = 66, ♩ = 58, ♩ = 66, and ♩ = 52. Pedal points (P) are indicated at the end of several measures.

♩ = 44 (♩ = 88)

♩ = 72. *very free*

69

69 *f* *p*

71

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *f*

extreme rubato

73

p *mf* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp*

3

p

P P

