

The Pianist's Nightmare

for self-accompanied soprano
or soprano & piano

with words and music
by
F L Dunkin Wedd

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The Pianist's Nightmare

So at last, your dream comes true
You're booked to play at a prime venue
Come the day, your train runs late
By the time that you get there you're in a nervous state
No time to practise, the caretaker lets you in
He looks you up and down, he doesn't crack a grin
He leads you to a dressing-room somewhere beneath the earth
Ask for a mirror, he says: "It's more than my job's worth".

The time has come, you walk to the wings
Your palms are sweating, the blood in your ears sings
Someone introduces you and when he's done his worst
You trip up on your dress and make your entrance head first
Pick yourself up, the show must go on
Sit down at the keyboard as if there's nothing wrong
First piece on the programme is a sonata in E flat
The B flat key sticks down and puts an end to that.

The piano's a model you've never seen before
The last time they tuned it was 1904
You hit a crashing chord, the pedal-board squeals
Suddenly you realise they haven't locked the wheels
With every chord you play
It slips a little further away.

Regaining control you think somehow perhaps
You just might get through it, then you get a memory lapse...
You get a memory lapse... You get a memory lapse...
It all comes back to you, you know where you should be
The you realise you're playing in the wrong key
At this point your troubles really begin
You forget what piece you're playing.

Struggling through to the end of the piece
While the man in the third row tries to fondle his neighbour's knees
Play it all forte to cover the snores
Yet when you finish you get seven encores
A standing ovation and a bouquet in the shape of a treble clef
They must be stone deaf.

The Pianist's Nightmare

Brightly

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$\bullet = 100$

The musical score is written for piano in 12/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music. The first system begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. The first system has a treble clef staff that is mostly empty, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a *mf* dynamic marking. The second system continues the grand staff with a treble clef staff that remains empty. The third system features a *gliss* marking over a melodic line in the treble clef staff. The bass clef staff in all systems contains a steady accompaniment of chords.

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major, starting with a whole rest followed by a melodic phrase. The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords. The bottom staff is the bass line, providing harmonic support with chords and a steady eighth-note rhythm.

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "So at last your". The piano accompaniment and bass line continue their respective parts, maintaining the harmonic and rhythmic structure.

The third system of the score includes the lyrics "dream comes true You're booked to play at a". The vocal line and piano accompaniment are clearly defined, with the piano part providing a consistent accompaniment.

The fourth system concludes the page with the lyrics "prime venue Come the day your". The musical notation for the vocal line, piano accompaniment, and bass line is complete for this system.

train runs late By the time that you get there you're in a

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care taker lets you in He looks you up and down he

doesn't crack a grin He leads you to a dressing room

some where beneath the earth Ask for a mirror he says,

"It's more than my job's worth"

$\text{♩} = 126$ *Look tempestuous*

3 6 6 6 3 *gliss*

a tempo

First system of musical notation, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Second system of musical notation, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "The time has come, you walk to the wings".

Third system of musical notation, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Your palms are sweat ing the blood in your ears sings".

Fourth system of musical notation, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Some one int ro du ces you, and when he's done his worst, You".

trip up on your dress and make your entrance head

first

Pick your self up, the show must go on

Sit down at the key board as if there's noth ing wrong

First up on the programme is a sonata in E flat The

B flat key sticks down and puts an end to that

The

piano's a model you've never seen before The

last time they tuned it was nine teen oh four

You hit a crash ing chord, the ped al board squeals

sfz sfz sfz

Sud den ly you re a lise they hav en't locked the wheels

Mime the keyboard getting further and further out of reach.

With ev' ry chord you play It

slips a lit tle fur ther a way

Re gain ing con trol, you think some how per haps You

just might get through it, then you get a mem o ry lapse

* you get a mem o ry lapse

* Look at the ceiling etc for inspiration

you get a mem o ry lapse

* If you like, whisper "What comes next?" to the audience

It all comes back to you you know where you should be

Then you not ice you're play ing in the wrong key

At this point your troub les rea lly be

gin You for get what piece you're

This system contains a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a half note 'gin' followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note 'You', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'for', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'get', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'what', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'piece', a quarter rest, and a quarter note 'you're'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with rests in the vocal line.

play ing

f *ppp* *p*

This system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note 'play' followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note 'ing'. The piano accompaniment features a dynamic change from *f* to *ppp* and then *p*. The right hand has chords and a melodic line, while the left hand has a bass line.

mf *mp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

This system shows piano accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The right hand has chords and a melodic line with triplets, while the left hand has a bass line.

p *f*

This system shows piano accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *f*. The right hand has chords and a melodic line with triplets, while the left hand has a bass line.

ff sfz f

GP Whistle:
Think hard - then mime "I've got it!"

I'm gon na find my

long lost friends Sum mer time

Strug gl ing through to the end of the piece

While the man in the third row tries to fon dle his neigh bour's knees

Play it all for te to co ver the snores

Yet when you fi nish you get se ven en cores a

stan ding ov at ion and a bou quet the shape of a treb le clef

They must be stone deaf