

Russell Steinberg

Water Rays

for Piano

Blown to Bits Publications

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op. 83

for Piano

Duration: 10 minutes

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by Russell Steinberg

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Performance Notes

Inspired by the dancing reflections of light rays on water, *Water Rays* invites the pianist to explore different shades of pedaling and touch to evoke the subtle resonances of the instrument.

The pedal is critical to create the necessary harmonic resonance to produce the watery effect and shimmer of the music. Each pianist and piano will discover individual pedaling that achieves a proper balance between harmonic resonance and clarity. That said, I have given much thought to the indicated pedaling to create color and resonance without obscuring the music.

Water Rays is certainly impressionistic. Comparisons with Debussy and Ravel will be immediate and inevitable. Nevertheless, there are also subtle references to Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, and perhaps even early Stravinsky.

The piece is in three continuous sections, each focused on a different tonal/modal center—from F to D to B—to which I've suggested increasingly darker hues of blue (aquamarine, cyan, and deep turquoise, respectively). The idea structuring the piece is of evolving trills that accumulate resonant energy to the point that the different modes become a hazy blurring at the end of F and B modes, finally propelling the B mode to the highest struck register of the piano to "meet up" with the higher overtones the piece has been sounding since the beginning.

The first page should be played very freely, really trying to achieve a true pianissimo. Equal attention should be given to the resonances during the held notes, as to the struck notes themselves.

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Water Rays

I. Aquamarine

Russell Steinberg

Delicate, lightly, in an improvisatory manner;
as if dipping fingers into deep blue water pierced with sun beams

♩ = 58

ppp *p* *ppp*

Red.

5 *p*

9 *pp* *ppp* *p* *mf* *pp*

13 *pp* *mf* *mp* *p*

17 *accel.*

pp *p* *f*

mf *p* *cantabile*

A tempo
joyous

20

mp *f*

sparkling to a higher energy

22

f *mf*

3 3

accel.

24

p poco a poco cresc. *8va*

3 3 3 3

with brilliance

25

f 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

8va

waterfall cascade

$\text{♩} = 104$

26

ff 6 6 7 6 6 6

28

poco a poco dim.

A tempo $\text{♩} = 52$

30

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

3 3 3 3

33

Più mosso ♩=62
tranquil, but yearning

mp > *pp*

37

espr.

mf > *mp* > *p*

40

mf > *f* > *mp* > *f*

trmm

trmm

3 5

sparkling again to a higher energy

42 $\text{♩} = 72$

sub. *pp* *f*

espr.

9 9 9

3 3

43

p *ff*

espr.

9 9 9

3 3

44

pp

9 9 9

3 3

8^{va}

45

9 9 12

ff p

tr tr tr tr tr tr

3 3

2/4 2/4

waterfall cascade

(8)

46

24 24

fff

8^{va}

2/4 2/4

47

3 18

mf

sf

f *P* *f sfz*

3 18

3/4 3/4

lontano, soft and blurry

49

pp 6 6 6 6

cantabile

lontano

51

mp mf espr. pp 6 6 6 6

cantabile

rit.

53

mp f espr. p 3 6

A tempo ♩=52

tranquil

56

pp p 3

This system contains measures 56, 57, and 58. Measure 56 begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 57 features a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 58 includes a triplet of eighth notes. The music is written for piano in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat.

Ped.

una corda

tre corde

59

f sfz > p pp 3 4/4 3/4 4/4

This system contains measures 59, 60, 61, and 62. Measure 59 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 60 features a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 61 is marked piano-piano (*pp*). Measure 62 includes a triplet of eighth notes. The music is written for piano in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat.

attacca

II. Cyan

♩=52

water ripples

63

pp mp pp p

musical notation for measures 63-65, including treble and bass staves with dynamic markings and articulation.

accel. . .

flowing tempo ♩=56

66

pp p f p dolce

8va

musical notation for measures 66-68, including treble and bass staves with dynamic markings, articulation, and an 8va marking.

69

cantabile mp ppp cantabile espr.

musical notation for measures 69-71, including treble and bass staves with dynamic markings, articulation, and a triplet marking.

72

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

rit. . . . **A tempo**

lontano

Ped.

75

mp *mf* *f*

rit. . . .

etc.

poco più mosso ♩=72

78

pp *intimo*

81 *rit.* **A tempo** ♩=56

p *mp* *p* *mf*

accel. *rit.*

84 *8va* *f* *mp*

cantabile

mp

poco più mosso ♩=72 *rit.*

86 *sub. pp intimo* *mp* *mf* *mp*

mp *mf* *mp*

8va-----

90 **accel.** **rit.** **poco scherzando** ♩=100

pp ppp *whispery*

93 **rit.** **A tempo** ♩=56 *misterioso*

mf *p* *pp*

8va-----

96 **fantasia ad lib.** *disembodied*

ppp *sotto voce*

(8)

98

Musical score for measures 98-100. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned above the first measure.

III. Deep Turquoise

rit. ♩=52 flowing

99

Musical score for measures 99-100. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned above the first measure. Dynamics include *f*, *ff*, and *pp*. There are two measures with a "6" above them.

101

Musical score for measures 101-102. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* and *pp*. There are two measures with a "5" and "9" above them.

102

8va

p mp mf mp

6 6 6 6 6

3/4 3/4

This system contains measures 102 and 103. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking of *p* at the start, followed by *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*. The left hand plays a bass line with sixths, indicated by the number '6' below the notes. A dynamic wedge is shown between the two hands. A dashed line labeled '8va' is positioned above the right hand staff.

103

8va

6 6 6 6 6 5

3/4 3/4

This system contains measures 103 and 104. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs. The left hand continues with sixths, indicated by the number '6' below the notes, ending with a '5'. A dashed line labeled '8va' is positioned above the right hand staff.

104

very delicate ♩=60

ff pp

ff pp

This system contains measures 104 and 105. The tempo is marked 'very delicate' with a quarter note equal to 60 (♩=60). The right hand starts with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, then moves to pianissimo (*pp*). The left hand starts with *ff* and moves to *pp*. The music features slurs and dynamic markings.

109 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 60$

mp dolce *pp* *p intimate*
delicate

accel.

112

mp

A tempo $\text{♩} = 60$ *accel.* *rit.*

114

f *p* *mf*
Ped.

116 **A tempo** *8va* *cantabile* **rit.**

p *mf dolce* *mp* *mf*

118 **A tempo** *delicate*

ppp *mf*

120

ppp *mp* *mf*

123

ff expansive mp f mp f mp mf

Ped.

126

A tempo **rit.**

mp ppp delicate mf < f p

128

A tempo **accel.** **Più mosso**

ppp mp mf mp f

rit. . Tempo I

♩=58

131

mp *f* *p* *mf*

134 *gossamer*

pp *mf* *Ped.* *una corda*

137

f *L.H.* *f* *f* *tre corde*

139

Musical score for measures 139-140. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It features a series of sixteenth-note runs, with a 9-measure phrase in the first half and a 3-measure phrase in the second half. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It features a descending eighth-note line followed by a 3-measure phrase. Dynamics include *mp* and *tr* (trills). A large watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the page.

141

Musical score for measures 141-142. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 4/4 time signature. It features a series of sixteenth-note runs with a 6-measure phrase, followed by a 3-measure phrase, and then a 3-measure phrase. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It features a series of trills (*tr*) with a 3-measure phrase. Dynamics include *f*. A large watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the page.

142

Musical score for measures 142-143. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 3/4 time signature. It features a series of sixteenth-note runs with a 9-measure phrase. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It features a series of trills (*tr*) with a 9-measure phrase. Dynamics include *p*. A large watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the page.

(8)]

143

ff

waterfall

22 22 22

(b) (b) (b)

144

21 21 18

(b) (b)

145

21 18 18

(b)

$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

mp *p* *f*

146

6 6 7 7

(b)

hazy blur between the two tonal areas F and B

147

sub. pp *f*

Ped.

148

sub. pp *f*

Ped.

149

sub. pp *f*

Ped.

150

mp *mf*

151

sub. *pp*

2/4

2/4

This system contains measures 151 and 152. Measure 151 is in 2/4 time and features a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The right hand has a long melodic line with a slur, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 152 continues in 2/4 time. A dynamic marking of *sub. pp* is placed above the first measure. A fermata is present over the final note of measure 152.

152

mf sub. *pp*

2/4 3/4

2/4 3/4

Ped.

This system contains measures 152 and 153. Measure 152 is in 2/4 time, and measure 153 is in 3/4 time. The key signature changes to two sharps (F#, C#). The right hand has a melodic line with a slur, and the left hand has an eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings of *mf* and *sub. pp* are present. A pedal point (Ped.) is indicated at the end of measure 153.

154

p *mp*

3/4 3/4

3/4 3/4

This system contains measures 154 and 155. Both measures are in 3/4 time. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb). The right hand has a melodic line with a slur, and the left hand has an eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings of *p* and *mp* are present.

156

f

4/4 4/4

4/4 4/4

This system contains measures 156 and 157. Both measures are in 4/4 time. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb). The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand has an eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* is present.

157

Musical score for measures 157-158. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). Measure 157 features a complex, flowing melody in the right hand with many accidentals, and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 158 continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a fermata. A 'Ped.' (pedal) marking is present below the right hand staff in measure 158.

158

Musical score for measures 158-159. Measure 158 continues from the previous system. Measure 159 features a melody in the right hand with a 'pp' (pianissimo) dynamic marking. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to two sharps (D major).

159

prettily

Musical score for measures 159-160. Measure 159 features a melody in the right hand marked 'prettily'. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 160 continues the melody and accompaniment.

160

mf *pp*

Musical score for measures 160-161. Measure 160 features a melody in the right hand with a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking. Measure 161 features a melody in the right hand with a 'pp' (pianissimo) dynamic marking. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment.

effervescent

161

mf *f*

162

mf *f*

163

sub. p

floating, luminous

164

f *sub. p* "fairy dust" *8va*

una corda

166

p *pp*

6

8va

168

p delicate *pp* *f*

poco rit.

6/8

tre corde

170

p *mp* *ff*

accel.

coiling energy

6

A tempo

Burst

molto rit.

Musical score for measures 171-175. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Measure 171 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes, with a *8va* marking above the first measure. The left hand plays a series of eighth notes, with a *f* marking below the first measure. The dynamics are *fff p* for the first measure, *f pp* for the second measure, and *morendo* for the third measure. The tempo is marked **A tempo** and **Burst**. The score ends with a double bar line.

like raindrops

Musical score for measure 172. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Measure 172 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes, with a *ppp* marking below the first measure. The left hand plays a series of eighth notes, with a *ppp* marking below the first measure. The tempo is marked **like raindrops**. The score ends with a double bar line.