

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.

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Brightly

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♩ = 100

The first system of musical notation consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 12/8. The middle and bottom staves are a grand staff with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, also with a key signature of one sharp and a time signature of 12/8. The music begins with a rest in the top staff. The middle staff starts with a series of eighth notes in the bass clef, followed by a melodic line in the treble clef. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and eighth notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed below the middle staff.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features the same three-staff layout. The top staff remains empty. The middle staff continues the melodic line from the first system. The bottom staff continues the harmonic accompaniment. The key signature and time signature remain consistent.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It features the same three-staff layout. The top staff remains empty. The middle staff continues the melodic line, ending with a glissando (gliss) marking. The bottom staff continues the harmonic accompaniment. The key signature and time signature remain consistent.

The first system of music features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a melodic phrase starting on G4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "So at last your". The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic pattern.

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "dream comes true You're booked to play at a". The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment.

The fourth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "prime ven ue Come the day your". The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment.

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

ner vous state No time to practice the

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 ben eath the earth Ask for a mirr or he says.

This system contains the first two staves of music. The vocal line is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "some where ben eath the earth" and "Ask for a mirr or he says.". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: a right-hand treble clef staff and a left-hand bass clef staff. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

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

This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "It's more than my job's worth". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns, maintaining the harmonic structure established in the previous system.

$\text{♩} = 126$ Look tempestuous

This system begins with a tempo marking of a quarter note equal to 126 beats per minute and the instruction "Look tempestuous". The piano part features a more active and rhythmic accompaniment, with the right hand playing a series of eighth-note chords and the left hand playing a steady eighth-note bass line.

3 6 6 6 3 gliss

This system contains the final two staves of music. The piano part features a complex and technically demanding passage. The right hand has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by three groups of sixteenth-note runs, and ends with a triplet of eighth notes and a glissando. The left hand continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

a tempo

First system of musical notation, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

The time has come, you walk to the wings

Second system of musical notation, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Your palms are sweat ing the blood in your ears sings

Third system of musical notation, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Some one in t ro du ces you, and when he's done his worst, You

Fourth system of musical notation, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

trip up on your dress and make your entrance head

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are "trip up on your dress and make your entrance head". The piano accompaniment is in G major and 4/4 time, with a bass line in the left hand and a treble line in the right hand. The right hand features a series of chords and moving lines.

first

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyric "first". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

Pick your self up, the show must go on

The third system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "Pick your self up, the show must go on". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

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

The fourth system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "Sit down at the key board as if there's noth ing wrong". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. There are some markings above the piano part, including a '4' and a slur.

First up on the programme is a son a ta in E flat The

B flat key sticks down and puts an end to that

The

pia no's a mod el you've nev er seen be fore 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 the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

play ing

f *ppp* *p*

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*, *ppp*, and *p*.

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

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*. There are triplets in the piano part.

p *f*

This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *p* and *f*. There are triplets in the piano part.

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Musical score for piano introduction. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a piano introduction with dynamic markings *ff*, *sfz*, and *f*. The introduction concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to D major.

Musical score for vocal entry. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the instruction "GP" (Grand Pause) and "Whistle:". The lyrics "Think hard - then mime 'I've got it!'" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and rhythmic patterns.

Musical score for vocal line. The lyrics "I'm gon na find my" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and rhythmic patterns.

Musical score for vocal line. The lyrics "long lost friends Sum mer time" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and rhythmic patterns.

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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

The first system of music features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase, followed by a rest. Above the vocal staff, two brackets labeled '4' indicate a four-measure phrase. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

They must be stone deaf

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a melodic phrase with a slur over the final two notes. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

The third system shows the vocal line with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

The fourth system shows the vocal line with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase with a slur. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

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