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A Dictionary for the Modern Flutist

Second Edition by Susan J. Maclagan,
Forward by Trevor Wye
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Canadian flutist and pedagogue Susan J. Maclagan has contributed to the series "Dictionaries for the Modern Musician" with a valuable second edition of all things flute. She has made this dictionary her life's work and she has succeeded admirably. I highly recommended this book for professional flutists, teachers, students and amateurs of all ages.

This dictionary's scope covers everything from flute history, construction, performance practice, acoustics, short biographies of flute-related people mentioned in the entries, human anatomy as it relates to flute-playing, and other flute-related topics. The reader will learn something new on most every page, no matter how well-versed they are in flute. All entries are clear, concise, and most contain references for further reading and/or cross-references to other entries. This compendium also includes photographs, diagrams, appendices, and an extensive bibliography.

This dictionary follows Susan Maclagan's first edition published in 2009, and contains updated information regarding topics as diverse as beat box flute by Greg Patillo, crowns and stoppers, and Boehm flute scales from 1847 to the present both by Gary Lewis, and early music on the modern flute by Barthold Kuijken, plus more.

An indispensable reference book for all flutists!

Audrey Jean Wells - Ontario

Piano Mime in Concert

Susan Griesdale
www.redleafpianoworks.com



Piano Mime presents twelve imaginative and creative pieces at an intermediate to early advanced level. The collection is divided into 4 sections – *grazioso*, *tranquillo*, *misterioso* and *con spirito* – already giving the performer an insight into the temperament and character of the pieces. In addition, each piece has several descriptive words added to illuminate its individual personality. Finally, the composer has included performance notes for every title. Since this book contains works that are mostly atonal, anything that helps in understanding performance style and content is especially welcome.

The three *grazioso* pieces are *Dancing Clowns*, *Memory of a Waltz* and *Lullaby with Ground Bass*. *Dancing Clowns* is the liveliest of these with playful slurs and staccatos in ¾ time. *Tranquillo* is represented by the dramatic *Sleepwalking*, *Quiet Cove* and reflective *Did You Have to Go*. Two different types of *misterioso* are explored – the theatrical anticipatory march of *The Trolls are Coming!* and the highly chromatic, moody *Night Shadows*. *Con Spirito* is represented by the quick and playful *Piano Mime*, the percussive and energetic *Brand New Sneakers*, the mischievous *High Jinks*, and – last but not least – the energetic, relentless toccata-like *Tornado*.

Dancing Clowns and *Sleepwalking* are listed in the RCM Syllabus as Level 5.

Only two of the pieces are written with key signatures – one with 2 flats, the other with 6 flats. Some works have few if any accidentals, others simply bristle with them! Simple line drawings evoke the emotive quality of each piece. A wide variety of moods and tempi are on offer here – these would be as interesting and intriguing as sight reading as they would be as recital pieces. The collection is available as an individual copy digital e-book, as a digital studio license and in hard copy.

Joyce Janzen - British Columbia

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Dance, Danse, Danze – Vol. 2

by Susan Griesdale

www.redleafpianoworks.com

Canadian composer Susan Griesdale has written award winning compositions in multiple genres with many pieces included in the syllabi of several conservatories. The piano works span a wide range of levels from first year learners to ARCT students.

The complete “Dance, Danse, Danza” collection is comprised of three volumes which present the player with a wide- ranging selection of unique and highly original dances that immerse both performer and listener in a kaleidoscope of rhythm and sound. Volume two contains three pieces that are strikingly original and perfect for recitals and encores. *Wayward Waltz* is light and graceful. In $\frac{9}{8}$ time the left hand opens with an ostinato pattern in 8th notes in the middle range of the piano. The right hand’s 16th note melody swirls around the upper register and contains surprising accents of tri-tone (dim 5 or aug 4th) and dim octaves (major 7th) intervals. Cluster chords marked *sfz* add pizzazz. The middle section is pianissimo and expands the range as the hands race over the entire keyboard with staccato leaps. The opening ostinato figure returns in both hands and rushes to a forte ending.

Ophelia Dances Alone references the story of Shakespeare’s tragic heroine from “Hamlet.” The opening is “*Slow, hypnotic, fragile*” in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Although the key signature has no sharps or flats, the accidentals in every bar present a challenge to the eye and the expanded tonality presents a challenge to the ear. A broad palette of touches and careful pedalling would enhance this piece. The tension builds with rising chromatic sequences. Erratic figures suggest a conflicted state of mind. After a passage marked “*very still, ethereal, other worldly, trance-like,*” the music moves into $\frac{3}{4}$ time with irregular rhythmic groupings of 3, 5, 6, and 19. The closing cadenza – like figure is repeated “*as many times as desired*” in the very highest range of the piano with the fortissimo dynamic subsiding to *pianississimo*.

Reveler’s Dance is a lively dance with three sections in $\frac{5}{8}$ time interspersed with contrasting sections in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. The left hand opens with a jaunty ostinato figure that sets up a full, resonant “stomping” tone quality that continues its forward momentum

to the very end.

Balance between the hands is important with different dynamic markings given for each hand.

Contrasting articulations with accents, tenuto, staccato and slurs add drama to the repeating musical ideas.

Ms. Griesdale’s music is showcased on the Red Leaf Piano Works website and includes video performances of many pieces. Go to www.susangriesdale.com to view helpful teacher resources and links to other organizations of interest. Its easy to order single pieces or any of her books. Not only does Ms. Griesdale create the art work for the covers for her own books, but also creates art work for other composers’ books. Outstanding!

Nita Pelletier - British Columbia

*Audrey, Jean, Joyce, and Nita thank you so much
for doing these reviews.*

I know the members will enjoy reading them.

Dina



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