

JESTER'S DANCE

One Piano Four Hands

by Susan Griesdale

Early Intermediate Level

Red Leaf Pianoworks

Jester's Dance is an imaginative character duet piece using polytonal scale pairings. The lightness of the Jester's footwork is felt throughout this dance with a *Spirito tempo*. The staccato articulation also creates energy and momentum to carry this piece from one player to the next. The exaggerated dynamics also give a clashing effect (but not quite) to this interesting polytonal musical motive writing. I enjoyed the layout of the publication as it offers the Primo and Secondo combined as well as separated. Just this past fall I had the privilege of attending a composition workshop by Susan Griesdale. I enjoyed her wealth of information on creating an "Idea's Book" for students. She highlighted the importance of Character, Contrast, Contour, A Beginning Middle and End to a composition, and Inspiration. Griesdale creates a *Jesters' Dance* "story" through dancing rhythms, and contrast of keys. Students will have to keep an open mind to experience the levels of excitement and wonder of this piece.

Sarah Lawton - Ontario