

Edward MacDowell

Four Little Poems

1. The Eagle

Op. 32, No. 1

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

A. Tennyson

Maestoso

8

ff risoluto e fieramente

The first system of the piano score for 'The Eagle'. It consists of two staves. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Maestoso' and the dynamics are 'ff risoluto e fieramente'. The score features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several triplet markings (3) over groups of notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

8

marc. il basso

The second system of the piano score. It continues from the first system. The dynamics are marked 'marc. il basso'. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet markings. The system ends with a double bar line.

poco a poco dimin.

The third system of the piano score. The dynamics are marked 'poco a poco dimin.'. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplet markings. The system ends with a double bar line.

8

ppp e legatissimo
poco marc. il basso

sempre pp

con 2 Ped.

This system features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a complex texture of chords and triplets, with a fermata over the final measure. The bass staff has a more rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. Performance instructions include *ppp e legatissimo*, *poco marc. il basso*, *sempre pp*, and *con 2 Ped.* A measure rest of 8 is indicated at the beginning.

This system continues the musical texture from the first system, with similar chordal and triplet patterns in both staves. A measure rest of 8 is indicated at the end of the system.

8

ppp

poco acceler.

sempre con 2 Ped.

This system shows a transition in dynamics and tempo. The treble staff has a fermata over the final measure. Performance instructions include *ppp*, *poco acceler.*, and *sempre con 2 Ped.* A measure rest of 8 is indicated at the beginning.

ppp dim. senza rit.

ppp

fff volante

fff largamente

This system concludes the piece with dynamic contrasts. The treble staff features a triplet and a fermata. The bass staff has a triplet and a fermata. Performance instructions include *ppp dim. senza rit.*, *ppp*, *fff volante*, and *fff largamente*. A measure rest of 8 is indicated at the beginning.

2. The Brook
Op. 32, No. 2

Gay below the cowslip bank, see the billow dances;
There I lay, beguiling time_ when I liv'd romances;
Dropping pebbles in the wave, fancies into fancies.

Bulwer

Allegro moderato

ppp leggierissimo

pp mf

ten.

ten.

poco rit.

sotto voce

mormorando

dim.

4/2

ppp

152

The first system of the score is in 4/2 time. The right hand features a complex, rhythmic melody with many sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. The dynamic marking is *ppp* (pianissimo). A measure number of 152 is indicated at the end of the system.

2 1 1 1 3

8

The second system continues the piece. The right hand has a melodic line with fingerings 2, 1, 1, 1, and 3. The left hand continues with a steady accompaniment. An 8-measure rest is indicated above the right hand in the final measure of the system.

8

p poco rit. *dolce e leggier.*

The third system begins with an 8-measure rest. The tempo and mood are indicated as *p poco rit.* (piano, a little ritardando) and *dolce e leggier.* (sweet and light). The right hand has a flowing melodic line, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

8

pp *mf* *ten.*

ten.

The fourth system starts with an 8-measure rest. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The *ten.* (tension) marking is used in both hands to indicate a more intense playing style.

8

ten. *poco rit.*

The fifth system begins with an 8-measure rest. The *ten.* marking is present in the left hand. The tempo is marked *poco rit.* (a little ritardando). The right hand has a melodic line, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

8

pp *dim.* *leggieriss.* *m.g.*

The sixth system starts with an 8-measure rest. The dynamics are *pp* (pianissimo) and *dim.* (diminuendo). The tempo and mood are marked *leggieriss.* (very light) and *m.g.* (moderato grazioso). The right hand has a melodic line, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

3. Moonshine

Op. 32, No. 3

Weary already, weary miles tonight
I walked for bed: and so, to get some ease,
I dogged the flying moon with similes.
And like a wisp she doubled on my sight
In ponds; and caught in tree-tops like a kite;
And in a globe of film all vapourish
Swam full-faced like a silly silver fish;—

Last like a bubble shot the welkin's height
Where my road turned, and got behind me, and sent
My wizened shadow craning round at me,
And jeered, „So, step the measure,—one two three!“—
And if I faced on her, looked innocent.
But just at parting, halfway down a dell,
She kissed me for goodnight. So you'll not tell.

D. G. Rossetti

Mesto, languido

*p ma poco pesante
l'accomp. poco stacc.*

The first system of the musical score is in 3/4 time, featuring a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is marked 'p ma poco pesante' and 'l'accomp. poco stacc.'.

The second system continues the piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is marked 'p ma poco pesante' and 'l'accomp. poco stacc.'.

f *pp dolciss.*

The third system continues the piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is marked 'f' and 'pp dolciss.'.

giocososo *ppp dolciss.*

The fourth system continues the piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is marked 'giocososo' and 'ppp dolciss.'.

poco cresc. *cresc.* *ten. poco accel.* *ten.*

The fifth system continues the piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is marked 'poco cresc.', 'cresc.', 'ten. poco accel.', and 'ten.'.

8 *ff ma giocoso* *poco a poco rit.*

pp con 2 Ped. *pp*

come primo *p*

mf *poco rit.* *dolciss. ppp* *con 2 Ped.*

a piacere *pp* *ppp rit.* *m. g.*

4. Winter

Op. 32, No. 4

A widow bird sate mourning for her Love
Upon a wintry bough;
The frozen wind crept on above,
The freezing stream below.

There was no leaf upon the forest bare
No flower upon the ground,
And little motion in the air
Except the mill-wheel's sound.

Shelley

Andante calmato

pp *poco marc.* *rall.* *pp tranquillo*

pp *leggieriss.*

pp *poco marc.* *dolciss.*

L'istesso tempo

ppp *parlante* *mf* *p*

First system of musical notation. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music features a complex texture with many accidentals and dynamic markings: *mf*, *p rallent.*, and *dim.*

Second system of musical notation. The music continues with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat). It includes the dynamic marking *pp tristamente* and the instruction *con 2 Ped.* (with two pedals).

Third system of musical notation. The music is marked *pp* and *delicatiss.* (delicately). It features a trill in the right hand and a *dim.* marking.

Fourth system of musical notation. The music includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a *pp* marking. The tempo is marked *poco marc.* (slightly more marked).

Fifth system of musical notation. The music is marked *smorzando* (fading) and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. The dynamic markings *pp* and *ppp* are used throughout the system.