The MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD

Farewell, February

A Note from the Composer

As the title to this composition implies, I wrote *Farewell, February* one cold late-winter morning. The sun was peeking out from behind gray clouds and the icicles were starting to thaw on my roof overhang... well, not really... I live in Texas... but I like to imagine icicles thawing! I tried to portray with music the still-gray yet exciting time that an early thaw brings. Winter days are coming to an end and the excitement of flowers budding in one's yard herald the fast approach of an awakening of the earth.

Mayron Cole



1. *Farewell, February* has a key signature of three sharps. What two scales have a key signature of three sharps?_____Major and _____Minor

2. *Farewell, February* is written in A Major. What three tones comprise the A Major chord? _____ _____ _____

3. Look at the RH chord in the last measure. What chord is this? _____Major

4. Use legato pedaling throughout *Farewell, February*. This means to depress half-way down the damper pedal or _____(right or left?)pedal.

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Farewell, February

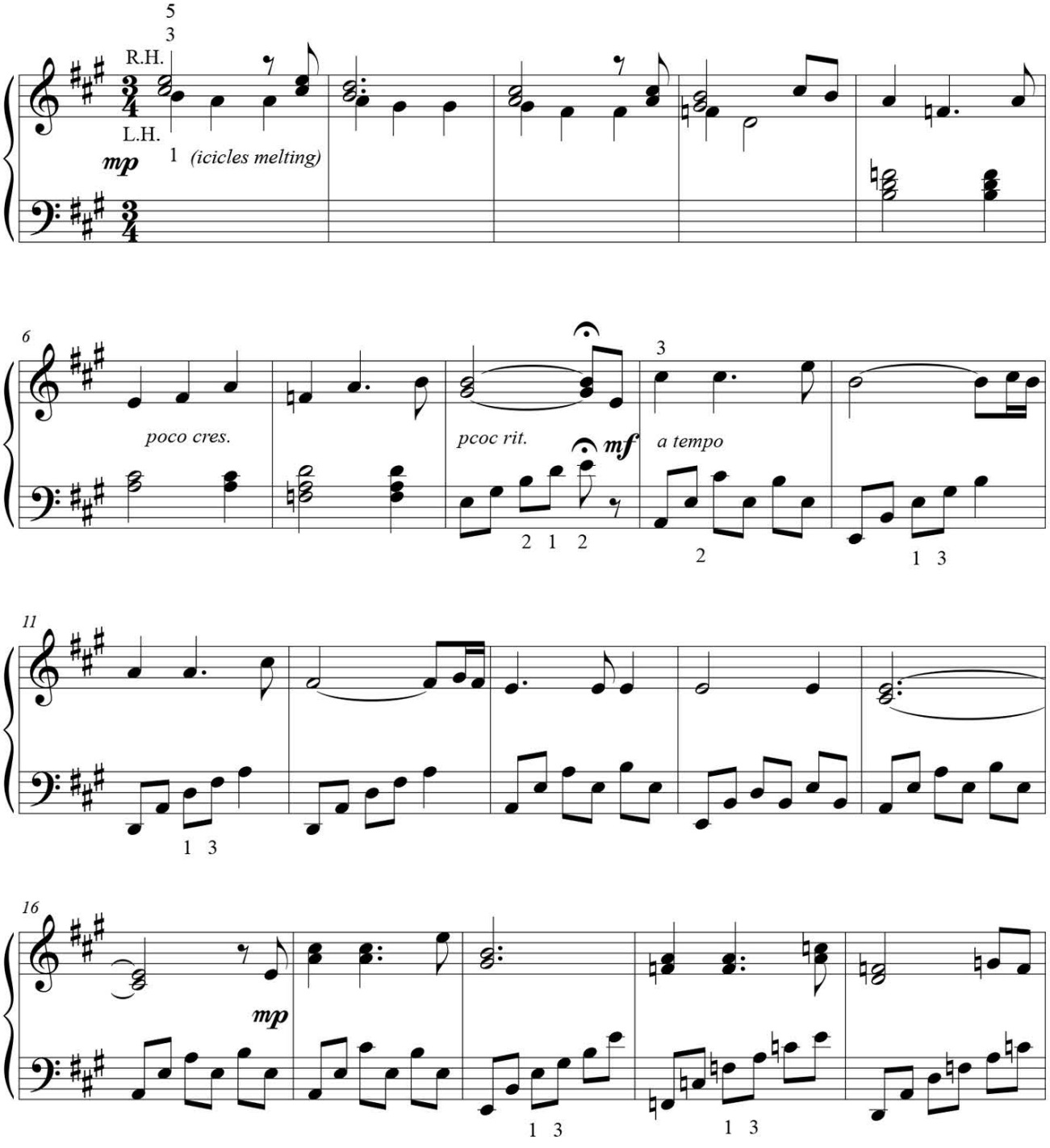
(orchestrated accompaniment has a 2 measure count-in)



(wedding music)

Moderato ♩ = 90mm

Mayron Cole



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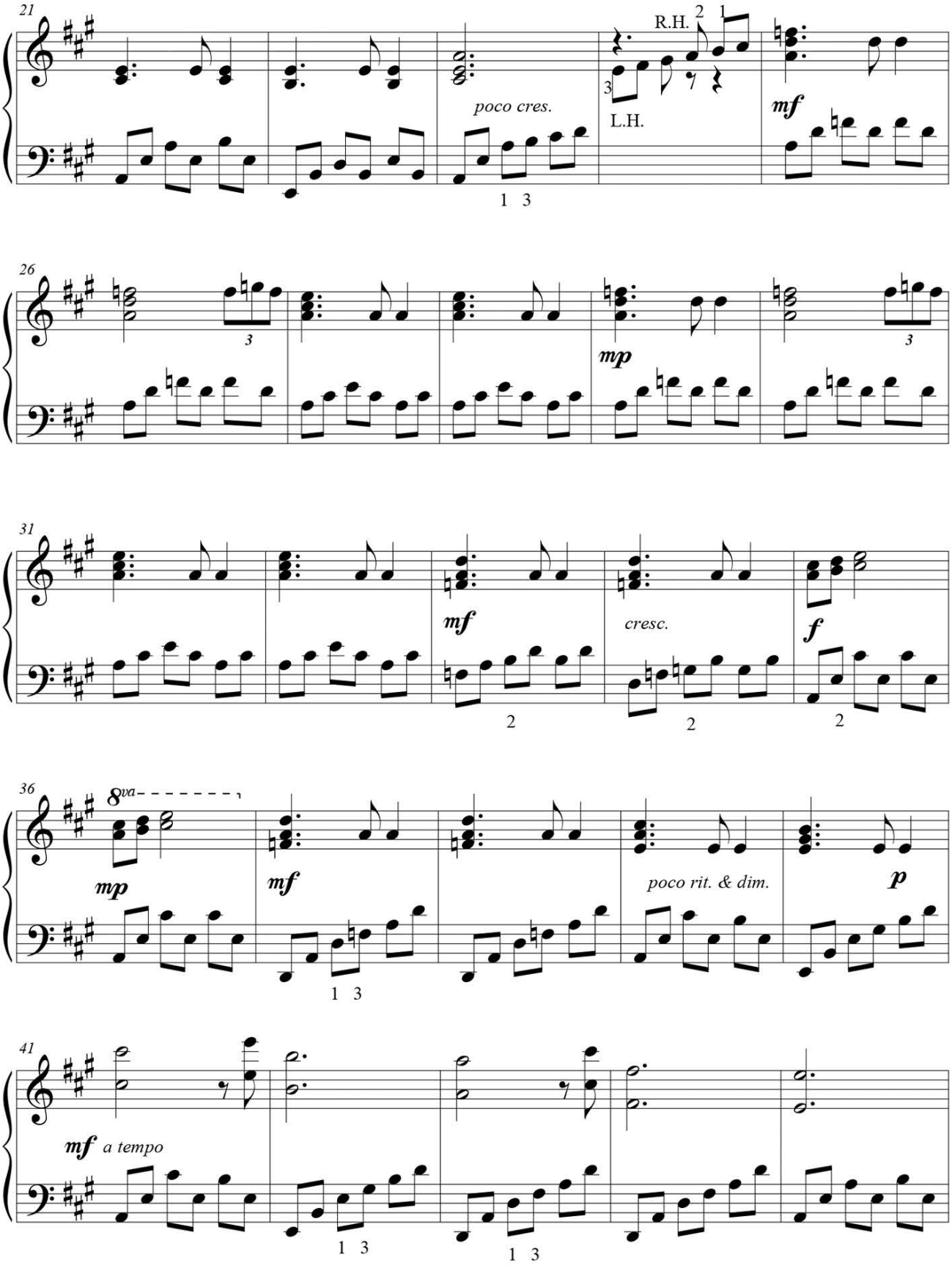

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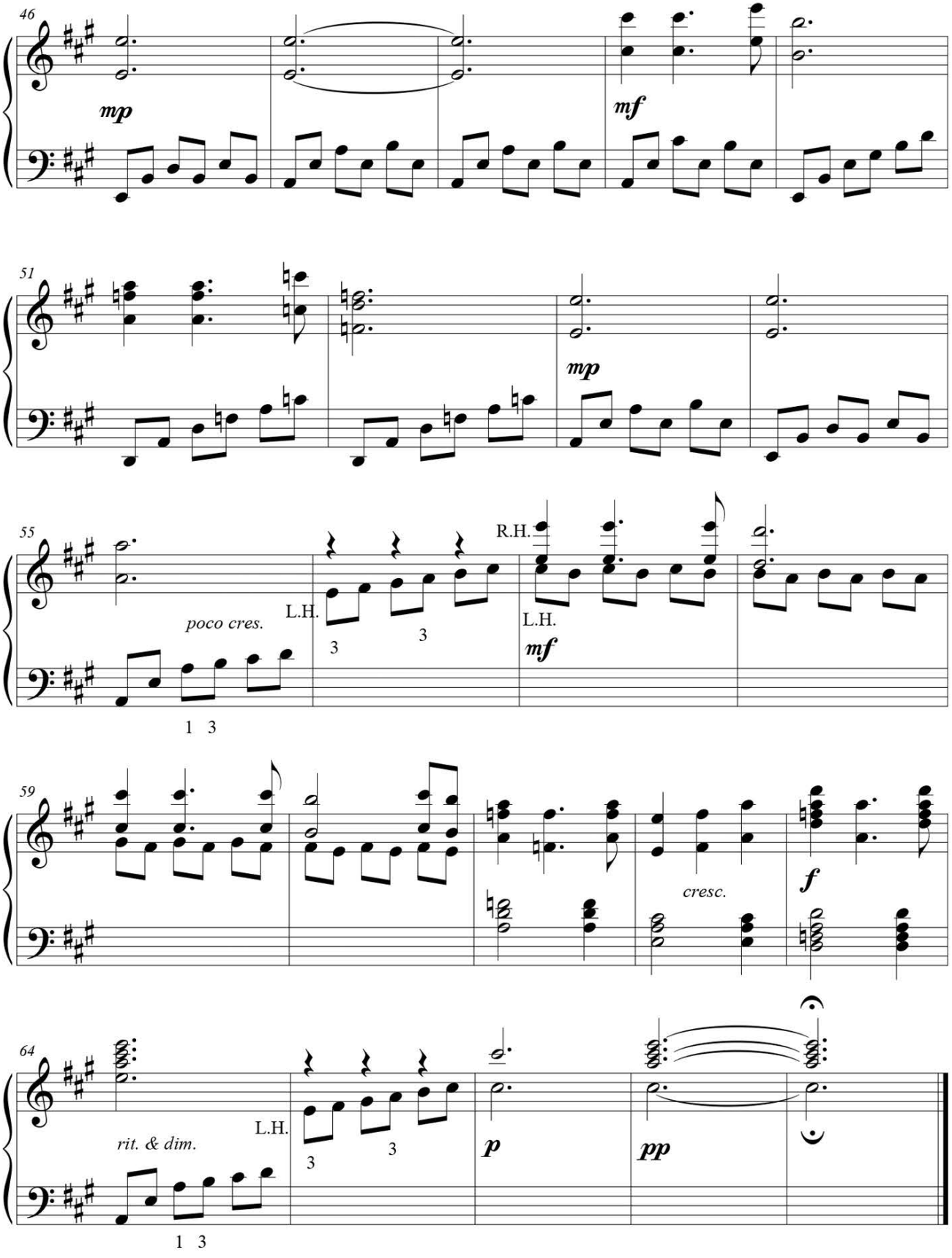

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The Evolution of the Melodic Minor Scale



Natural Minor Scale: As you know, two minor scales evolved from the ancient AEOLIAN MODE (scale). The Aeolian mode is what we identify today as the NATURAL MINOR SCALE. As years progressed, composers realized that the natural minor scale needed a "leading tone". (A leading tone is the tone a half-step below the tonic note. The leading tone leads the ear into the tonic tone.)

Harmonic Minor Scale: The seventh tone of the natural minor scale was raised to create a leading tone—and presto! The scale was now identified as the HARMONIC MINOR SCALE. The harmonic minor scale is the "musicians' scale". Most of the minor compositions you will learn are written with the harmonic minor scale.

Melodic Minor Scale: Singers had a difficult time singing a melody using the harmonic minor scale. Why? When the 7th degree (tone) of the harmonic minor scale was raised, it created an augmented 2nd between the 6th and 7th degrees of the scale. Singers complained about the difficulty of singing an augmented 2nd, so the solution was to raise the 6th and 7th degrees of the harmonic minor scale when the melody of the song went UP and lower the 6th and 7th degrees when the melody descended.

Summation: Pianists rarely use the melodic minor scale, but it is used often when lyrics are added to the music. We want singers to be happy, so please remember that when playing the melodic minor scale going UP, raise the 6th and 7th tones (degrees) of the scale. When the melodic minor scale goes DOWN, use the natural minor scale (6th and 7th degrees of the scale are NOT raised!)

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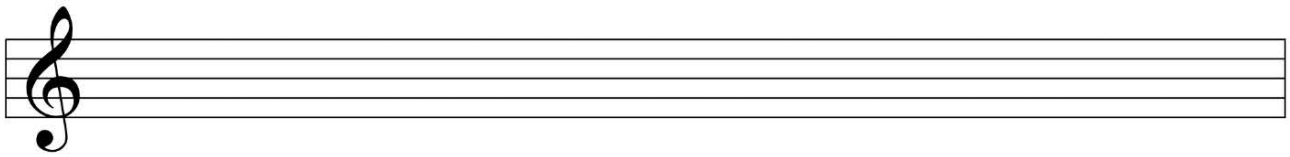
Let's Give It a Try!

Below, using WHOLE NOTES write the ascending and descending MELODIC MINOR scale beginning on G.

What KEY SIGNATURE does G minor use? _____ (2 flats or 4 flats)

Remember to RAISE the 6th and 7th tones of the scale going UP; lower the 6th and 7th tones of the scale going DOWN. Easy!

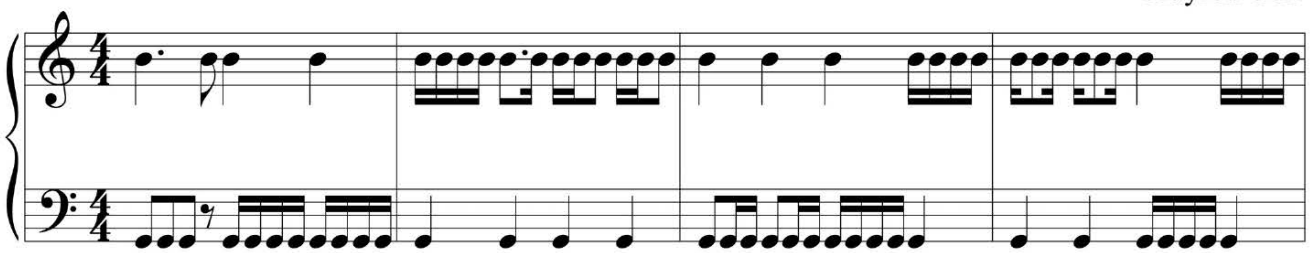


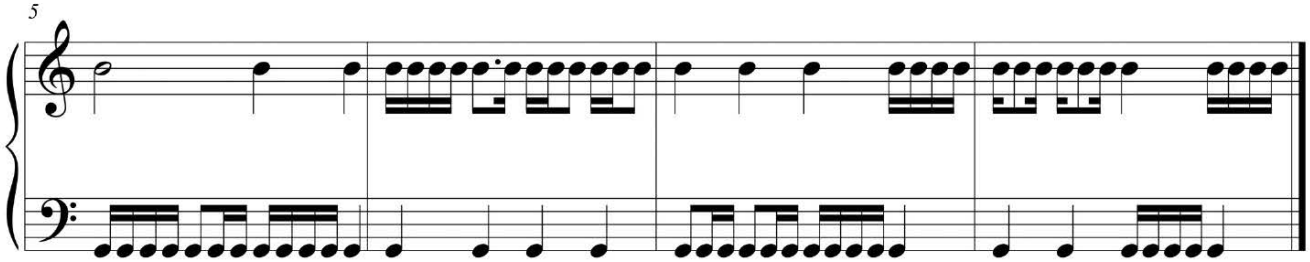


Great Rhythm Taps!

Impress your parents and your friends!

Mayron Cole





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Word Search Puzzle



S C D J T W O S H A R P S Q Q
T P Z O D R L A V R E T N I G
A M N D K C I T N E H T U A H
L O J N D E H S I N I M I D Z
F B Q A F S O T A R E D O M E
E T C D T N E C C A Z U R M Y
V F L R D C I N O M R A H N E
I N I A S H A R P M I N O R E
F A W T C H R O M A T I C T L
Z I S I F U R I Y A T E M P O
I L P R J B W L O S L K C F C
M O O M E Z Z O F O R T E J B
T E Q N H C I B I F B E H L E
I A A D O C L A S D T H U Y W
T C H A I K O V S K Y B Q D P

In the puzzle above, find and circle the answers to the clues below. Answers will be forwards, backwards, up, or down.

CLUES:

1. Two tones or two notes.
2. Type of Grecian Mode that later became known as the minor scale (see page 34).
3. Last name of the composer of *Swan Lake*.
4. Key signature for a composition written in D-flat Major.
5. This term means “sounds the same.”
6. Type of cadence that progresses from the V to the I (tonic) chord (see page 42-43).
7. Last name of the composer of *Moment by Moment*.
8. Repeat from the sign; play to the coda sign; then jump to the coda.
9. The relative minor of C-sharp Major.
10. This type of scale has 12 tones that are each a half-step apart.
11. Last name of the composer of *Poem*.
12. Medium loud.

answers are on page 51

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