

Introduction

I've created the *Mastering the piano* series with my partner Faber Music to get today's kids really enthused about playing the piano: to inspire them to perform with love, energy and commitment. This series captures my own passion for piano playing and shares my artistic values and technical insights with the next generation of pianists.

There are no shortcuts to becoming a pianist: good playing can only be achieved through good work. This book sets out to give players the advice, resources and the desire to reach this goal. Over the course of eight units, I explore key aspects of piano technique and offer advice and suggestions on the challenges encountered. Each unit includes exercises, a study and two pieces to learn; I've selected some of the best-loved works from the great European tradition as well as some really extraordinary arrangements of world music that I love.

This book is not a tutor, so you do not need to work through it progressively. Pick and choose what you would like to focus on depending on your own individual needs and tackle the units in an order that suits you.

In addition to the printed books, materials supporting the series are available from langlangpianoacademy.com. This multi-platform delivery of learning provides an engaging format for tech-savvy young learners.

To me, the piano is like a musical world - it takes me to a place beyond reality. You, too, will find that it extends your mind, heart, creativity and communication skills. You don't need a concert hall; you don't need a big grand piano: any piano is enough - and the world will be yours to embrace.

A large, elegant handwritten signature of the pianist Lang Lang in black ink.

Twilight

Richard Harris

This piece uses the pedal - sit forward on your piano stool to reach it if you need to. Although the pedal blurs the sound, make sure you still play with a really bouncy staccato and keep it 'pianissimo'. The result is a mysterious, twilight sound.

Slow ♩ = 60

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Slow' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic is 'pp sempre'. The right hand plays a sequence of chords: G4 (finger 4), F4 (finger 1), E4 (finger 5), D4 (finger 2), C4 (finger 3), B3 (finger 5), A3 (finger 3), G3 (finger 5). The left hand plays a sustained bass line: G2 (finger 2), F2 (finger 2), E2 (finger 2), D2 (finger 2), C2 (finger 2), B1 (finger 2), A1 (finger 2), G1 (finger 2). Pedal markings are present under the bass line.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The right hand continues with chords: G4 (finger 5), F4 (finger 1), E4 (finger 5), D4 (finger 3), C4 (finger 2), B3 (finger 4), A3 (finger 3), G3 (finger 2). The left hand continues with the sustained bass line: G2 (finger 5), F2 (finger 5), E2 (finger 5), D2 (finger 1), C2 (finger 1), B1 (finger 1), A1 (finger 1), G1 (finger 1). Pedal markings are present under the bass line.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The right hand continues with chords: G4 (finger 5), F4 (finger 1), E4 (finger 5), D4 (finger 3), C4 (finger 1), B3 (finger 3), A3 (finger 1), G3 (finger 1). The left hand continues with the sustained bass line: G2 (finger 5), F2 (finger 5), E2 (finger 5), D2 (finger 5), C2 (finger 5), B1 (finger 5), A1 (finger 5), G1 (finger 5). Pedal markings are present under the bass line.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The piece concludes with a 'rall.' (ritardando) marking. The right hand plays chords: G4 (finger 3), F4 (finger 1), E4 (finger 5), D4 (finger 2), C4 (finger 1), B3 (finger 3), A3 (finger 1), G3 (finger 1). The left hand continues with the sustained bass line: G2 (finger 5), F2 (finger 5), E2 (finger 5), D2 (finger 5), C2 (finger 5), B1 (finger 5), A1 (finger 5), G1 (finger 5). Pedal markings are present under the bass line.

