

# **STUDIES FOR SOLO PIANO**

**For Brian Duncan**

**Daniel West(1999)**

## Performance notes for the Studies

At the request of my dear friend and colleague Brian Duncan, I decided to compose a series of piano works which explore not only technical aspects of the piano but compositional elements as well. In this respect, I took my cue from J. S. Bach and composed each study in a different diatonic key, major or minor. The work moves from relatively simple to complex and fingerings have been left to the discretion of the performer except where indicated in the score. These pieces were a joy to create and I hope that joy will transfer to you the performer.

Duration: approximately 14 minutes.

Dan said 2019  
"may the studies  
bring you peace"

Fingerings I had at a time

# Studies For Piano

Fingerings: Sage  
Briar  
♩ = 104 407.11

1.

By Daniel West

as with wings...encircling

Handwritten musical notation for measures 1-4. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The tempo is marked as 104 beats per minute. The piece is titled 'Studies For Piano' and is by Daniel West. The first measure is marked with a '1' and a 'p' (piano). The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. The piece is described as 'as with wings...encircling'.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 5-8. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. The piece is described as 'as with wings...encircling'.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 9-12. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. The piece is described as 'as with wings...encircling'.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 13-16. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. The piece is described as 'as with wings...encircling'.



this piece showcases the will of the performer.  
play in staccato or legato, fast or slow.  
any way the wind blows.....

2.

By Daniel West

♩ = whatever  
you  
want

freely, as desired

any combination thereof...@!&%^

poco rit- - -



# 3.

at a relaxed pace, ♩ = 84

By Daniel West

con molto legato

*p*

5 una corda

The first system of the musical score is in 3/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5, then down to G4. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sustained bass line with a single note G3. Fingerings are indicated: 1 for the first G in the right hand, 2 for A, 3 for B, 4 for C, and 5 for D. The instruction 'con molto legato' is written above the right hand. The dynamic 'p' (piano) is written above the first measure. The instruction '5 una corda' is written below the left hand.

*mp*

*pp*

(Hold A w/ 5th finger)

The second system continues the piece. The right hand plays a melody with a descending line. The left hand plays a bass line. The dynamic 'mp' (mezzo-piano) is written above the first measure of the right hand. The dynamic 'pp' (pianissimo) is written above the first measure of the left hand. A handwritten note '(Hold A w/ 5th finger)' is written above the right hand in the third measure.

*pp*

(hold w/ 1st finger)

The third system continues the piece. The right hand plays a melody with a descending line. The left hand plays a bass line. The dynamic 'pp' (pianissimo) is written above the first measure of the right hand. A handwritten note '(hold w/ 1st finger)' is written above the right hand in the third measure.

*f*

*sub p*

*poco rit.*

A Tempo

The fourth system concludes the piece. The right hand plays a melody with a descending line. The left hand plays a bass line. The dynamic 'f' (forte) is written above the first measure of the right hand. The dynamic 'sub p' (sub-piano) is written above the first measure of the left hand. The instruction 'poco rit.' (poco ritardando) is written above the right hand in the third measure. The instruction 'A Tempo' is written above the right hand in the fourth measure.

4.

Largo,  $\text{♩} = 42$

By Daniel West

*a moonlight walk along the shore...*

1 *p*

5 *pp* *mp*

9 *p* *f* *rit.* *A Tempo*

13 *pp* *mp* *pp* *A Tempo*



## 5.

$\bullet = 138-144$

*can be played either staccato or legato...*

By Daniel West

The image displays a piano score for exercise 5, consisting of five systems of music. Each system is written for piano (p) and includes a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as 138-144 beats per minute. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) at measure 1. The first system covers measures 1 through 4. The second system covers measures 5 through 8. The third system covers measures 9 through 12 and includes a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) at measure 9. The fourth system covers measures 13 through 16. The fifth system covers measures 17 through 19 and includes a dynamic marking of *ppp* (pianississimo) at measure 17. The score concludes with a double bar line and a *8va* (octave) marking at the end of measure 19.



## 6.

Vivace ♩ = 69

At long last...Spring!!!

By Daniel West

1 *f*

4 *mf*

7 *p* *f*

10 *subp* l.h. r.h. l.h.

13 r.h. l.h.

Larghetto ♩ = 60

7.

*always with forward motion.....*

By Daniel West

1

*p*

6

11

*mp*

16

21

*p*

26



31

System 1 (Measures 31-35): Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

36

System 2 (Measures 36-40): Treble and bass staves. Measure 36 has a dynamic marking of *mf*. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

41

System 3 (Measures 41-45): Treble and bass staves. Measure 41 has a dynamic marking of *p*. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

46

System 4 (Measures 46-50): Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

51

System 5 (Measures 51-55): Treble and bass staves. Measure 51 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

56

System 6 (Measures 56-60): Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.



## 8.

(From, "Studies For Piano")

By Daniel West

 $\text{♩} = 200$ *the dervish laughs as he vanishes into night..*

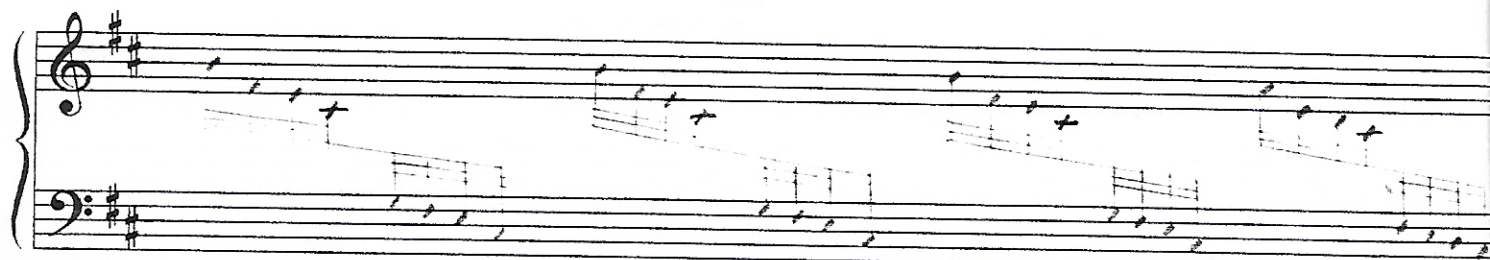
The first system of musical notation for Study No. 8. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 200. The dynamic is marked as *f* (forte). The music features a complex, rapid melody in the right hand and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The right hand starts with a series of eighth notes, followed by a series of sixteenth notes. The left hand has a steady eighth-note pattern. The system ends with a double bar line.

The second system of musical notation for Study No. 8. It continues the melody from the first system. The right hand has a series of eighth notes, followed by a series of sixteenth notes. The left hand has a steady eighth-note pattern. The system ends with a double bar line.

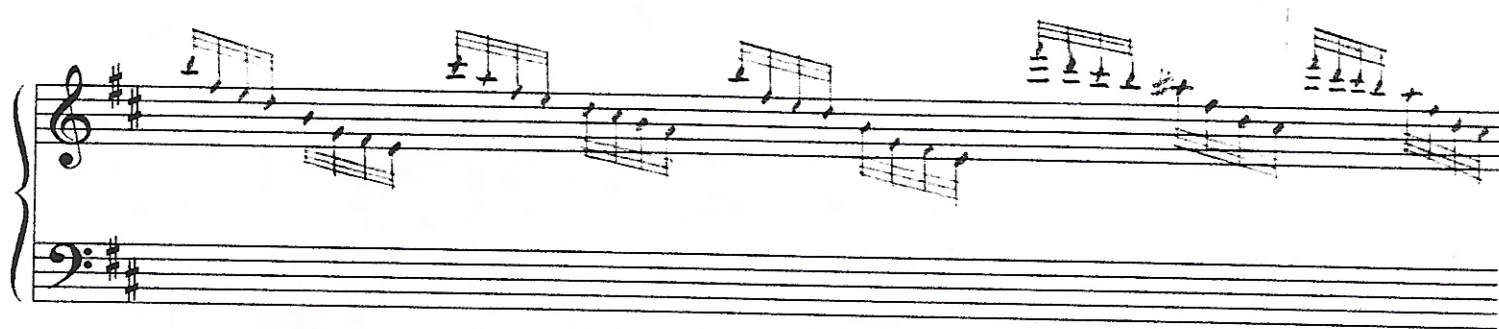
The third system of musical notation for Study No. 8. It continues the melody from the second system. The right hand has a series of eighth notes, followed by a series of sixteenth notes. The left hand has a steady eighth-note pattern. The system ends with a double bar line.

The fourth system of musical notation for Study No. 8. It continues the melody from the third system. The right hand has a series of eighth notes, followed by a series of sixteenth notes. The left hand has a steady eighth-note pattern. The system ends with a double bar line.

The fifth system of musical notation for Study No. 8. It continues the melody from the fourth system. The right hand has a series of eighth notes, followed by a series of sixteenth notes. The left hand has a steady eighth-note pattern. The system ends with a double bar line.









Largo  $\text{♩} = 44$ 

By Daniel West

rit. - - 7

1 *p* *mf* *pppmp* 3

A Tempo

4 *pp* *mf*

7 *p* *ppp*

10 *p* *fff* 8va

A Tempo

molto rit. - - 3

ppp

slowly, pensively

13 *pp* *ppp* 3 3

# 10.

Majestically  $\text{♩} = 40$

*A triumphant return home.*

By Daniel West

1

*ff*

*poco*

5

*f*

*p*

10

*molto*

13

*fff*

*sub p*





Presto ♩ = 168

By Daniel West

*Sempre Staccato*

1

*p*

5

9

*sfz*

13

*p*

*sfz*

17

*p*

21

*pp*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for piano, consisting of six systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat), and the time signature is 5/8. The tempo is marked 'Presto' with a quarter note equal to 168 beats per minute. The performance instruction is 'Sempre Staccato'. The score begins with a first ending bracket over measures 1-4. Measures 5-8 are followed by a second ending bracket over measures 9-12. Measures 13-16 are followed by a third ending bracket over measures 17-20. Measures 21-24 conclude the piece with a final double bar line. Dynamics include piano (*p*), fortissimo (*sfz*), and pianissimo (*pp*). The notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks consistent with the staccato instruction.

♩ = 208

12.

"Dance Of The Dilettantes"

By Daniel West

*p*

*mp*

*mp*

*f*

*subp*



# 13.

Moderato ♩ = 112

By Daniel West

*con molto legato*

1 3 3

*p* *poco* *p*

*mp* *p*

*pp* 3 3

*mp* *pp*

## 14.

♩ = 132

By Daniel West

1 *rainy day, dream all day...*

*p*

5

*mp* *mf*

9

*subp*

13

*pp*

17

*molto rit.* *pppp*