



# Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Inspires digital resource

## Grace Huang Presents:

**“No. 3: Scherzo” from 23 Short Pieces for Piano, EG 104 by Edvard Grieg**

### Preparation and Presentation

**Context:** pieces that are helpful to have experienced or played before approaching this one

- Burgmüller: Progress, Op. 100, No. 6
- Gurlitt: Scherzo, Op. 140, No. 17 or Scherzo, Op. 101, No. 16
- Haydn: Allegro Scherzando in F major
- LISTEN TO: Clara Schumann Sonata No. 2 in G minor, III. Scherzo
- LISTEN TO: Beethoven String Quartet in G major, Op. 18, No. 2, III. Scherzo

**Get Ready:** creative activities to explore before the first encounter with the score, to prepare student for deeper engagement and more immediate success

- Discuss and explore the character of a scherzo.
- Tell a funny story or joke! Have your student practice the timing and pacing of their story, encouraging them to relish the dramatic pause before the “punchline.” Connect this activity to the piece itself—What are the light, humorous moments in this piece? Where do any surprises and/or dramatic pauses occur?

**Initial Focus:** features to pay attention to first; priority steps in reading and absorbing the music

- Write in any essential fingerings where needed (leaps, etc.).
- Note the basic elements throughout: scales, staccato leaps, two-note slurs, chords.
- Color code the dynamics: use a bright hue for fiery “forte,” a pale hue for “piano,” etc.
- Locate the SILENCES (important in this piece)! Write in the counts for the rests; observe them carefully from Day 1.

**Coordination Essentials:** physical skills and drills for common technical challenges in the piece

- Achieve clean, even scales by practicing: 1) in dotted rhythms, 2) with accents on every first/second/third/fourth sixteenth note per beat.
- Achieve clean articulations: staccatos, 2-note slurs with marcato downbeats.
- Voice the chords: focus on clear voicing of the RH top note.

**Expressivity:** ideas to connect with the expressive and musical nature of the piece

- Keep technical passages sounding beautifully artistic—create beautiful crescendo shapes to the tops of scales; voice the tops of blocked chords with a warm, rich tone.

**Look Forward:** approaches to set up for success with refinements that will need attention a few weeks down the road

- It can be easy to rush the tempo in this piece! Have a periodic “metronome practice week” to help your student maintain a reliable internal pulse.