



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Clavier Companion subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Dr. Julie Knerr presents: Spinning Song, op. 14, no. 4 by Albert Ellmenreich

Preparation and Presentation

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

- Rebikov: The Bear
- Bach: Minuet in D Major, BWV Anh. 126
- Gurlitt: Etude in D minor (*Night Journey*), op. 82, no. 65

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

- Get to know the composer: Albert Ellmenreich (1816-1905, Germany); an actor and theater director; *Spinning Song* is the only piece he composed that is still commonly known!
- Ask the student to imagine what story elements the music suggests as you play the entire piece.

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

- This piece is in Rondo Form: A B A C D A B A Coda
- Label the sections with letters or with key words to remind about what is happening in the story.

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

- **A Section** (mm. 3-10, 19-26, 52-61, 70-77)
 - LH plays with staccato articulation and a slight forearm bounce.
 - Take time to find the RH fingering that best fits the student's hand; stick with it!
- **B Section** (mm. 11-18, 62-69)
 - Understand three RH Patterns:
 - Chromatic 3rds (m. 11-12),
 - Diatonic 3rds (m. 13)
 - Chords (m. 14). Use pedal on these chords.
- Transition in m. 18, use lyrics to explain pacing, "I'm tired..."
- **C and D Sections** (m. 27-42, 43-51)
 - Create exercises with one hand 'singing' legato against a light staccato in the opposite hand

Keep it musical: ways to connect and re-connect with the expressive nature of the piece

- "One-Handed Duet" to understand rhythm. Student plays LH while you play RH.
- Create lyrics for the C-section LH to help secure the rhythm and phrase structure

Look forward: ways to set up for success with refinements that will need attention a few weeks down the road

- Lyrics to pace transitions, mm. 18, 50 - 51, "I wonder what to play next?"
- Pedal long downbeat melodic tones (mm. 27-51)
- Isolate two-measure segments for work with voicing and/or balance