



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Clavier Companion subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Todd Van Kekerix presents:

"L'Orage," Op. 109, no. 13 by Johann Friedrich Burgmuller

Preparation and Presentation

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

- Night Rider by Melody Bober
- Little Prelude in F major, BWV 927 by J.S. Bach
- Etude in C minor, Op. 27, no. 9 by Henri Bertini
- At the Skating Rink, Op. 28, no. 23 by Samuel Maykapar

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

- Explore the title of the piece, "L'Orage" by viewing Georges Michel's painting of the same name.
- Use technical warm-ups, such as five finger patterns and broken chords to explore playing softly while still projecting in the lower register of the keyboard.
- Have student compose their own stormy piece based on the previous technical warm-up.
- Practice measured tremolos in 16th notes as a warm-up using a d harmonic minor scale.

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

- Listen to a recording of the piece and discuss how the piece sounds like a storm.
- Label the form of the piece.
- Brainstorm about what mm. 20-29 might mean in the context of a storm.
- Label chords throughout the piece to provide a framework for harmonic movement.

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

- RH entrances after 16th rests.
- LH melodic projection throughout the A and B sections.
- Finger control - making all of the notes speak.
- Draw attention to RH ties on beat 3 in m. 16.
- Isolate beats 3 & 4 in m. 21 going to beat 1 in m. 22 to feel the connection to the D major chord.

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

- Establish a narrative to accompany the music by reconnecting with Michel's painting.

- Practice dynamic swells in various 5 finger pattern iterations to develop crescendo and diminuendo control.

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

- Dynamic control in the musical swells.
- Voicing chords.
- Projecting melodic lines.
- Technical gesture needed for the rolled chord in m. 15.
- Pedaling precision.