

Humorous Piano Pieces

The Civilian Barber -Peter Schickle a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach. Very humorous duet. Here's a link to his music at Presser...<http://www.presser.com/pdqbach.html>

Toot Suite-Peter Schickle a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach

The Notebook for Betty Sue Bach-Peter Schickle a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach

Sassy Fingers-by Bob Dawson, in his book, "Breaking The Rules", published by Warner Brothers. It is best described as Mozart in the right hand and Chopin in the left hand!

Walkin' In Tall Cotton -by Bob Dawson. Some think each sounds bluegrassy

Triple Dip-Robert Vandall. One piano/6 hands. I had 3 adults play it at a recital once, they stole the show!

Whistle Stop Junction -Carrie Kraft. Belwin Mills (copyright 1993) This duet is also a show stopper and requires them to each play the wooden train type whistle while they play rhythmic augmented triads at the beginning and ending to this piece.

C.S. Theme and Variations Op.6 -Randall Compton. One piano, four hands (give or take a hand) C.S. refers to chopsticks. This is an upper intermediate to early advanced piece. Hard to put together but so satisfying once they do. The players also get to change parts on this one.

Festivities-Paul Sheftel. These pieces are all really funny.

Not Fur Elise -Paul Sheftel is an absolute hoot. It's a jazzy arrangement that has an E-E, E-E, E-E.... that keeps going right off the top of the keyboard and the student can fall off the piano bench to everyone's delight. The piece is easier than Beethoven's original composition so it is a great little piece for the fun loving student. Found in: *Paul's Practical Piano Pieces*, published by Carl Fischer. It also contains several other fun, goofy titles, including a spoof on Chopsticks.

Piano Solos for More than Ten Fingers includes a cute piece to be done with the aid of a small stuffed animal who 'plays' the 3-black-key group; others use a balloon or frisbee; another piece may be played by someone whose left arm is in a cast; and there is a piece using clusters. Kids love 'em! The set, for elementary/intermediate students, is still available in the Patti Music Catalog; I would also check Burt & Co. The "I want to Quit Piano..." books are also very good, but I haven't seen them in a long while.

Round and Round -Olson

Small World played with as many ping pong balls as possible!!!-Walden Hughes

Holly- wrote the grapefruit / oranges etc.

See <http://people.nnu.edu/wdhughes/midilink.htm> You can now purchase Walden's arrangements on line and he emails them. The 12 hand Sabre Dance sounds great!!

Some of the funniest performances come from slapsticking the serious. I mean, taking a perfectly normal, preferably serious piece of music, and physically slapsticking during the performance. For instance - v. Borge playing William Tell's Overture upside down, or in a piece that runs all over the piano, he fell off the bench. One time a Mom/daughter combo played a beautiful duet that had lots of whole note holds at the end of the phrases, and on the 2nd time through the piece, they switched places at the bench on every whole note while attempting to keep the whole note holding.

Balloon Pop Polka -Ruth Ellinger. Published by Belwin. The piece is early intermediate level, for 2 pianos, 8 hands, and 12 balloons! As the title suggests, the balloons (except one) are popped during the piece. It's great fun to play!

Humorous Bagatelles Op. 11- Nielsen, Assoc. Board PRE-49000582 or Masters MASM1057 (cheaper)

Von Noe, Happy Birthday to You: Humorous Variations, Doblinger DOBDm01641

Clowns -Kabalevsky

Jack in the Beanstalk in Faber Perf. 1

Five Vignettes on the Little White Duck –Dan Severino. Early to mid-intermediate piece. that I think I succeeded in bringing some good humor to the piano.

Taxi Tangle from Hal Leonard Lesson Book 1 (pre-staff music)

Knock-Knock Joke from HL Lesson Book 1 (pre-staff music)

Skateboard Doodle from HL Lesson Book 1,

Old Saw from HL Solo Book 1

The Wild Rest from HL Solo Book 1

Please, No Bees! from HL Lesson Book 2

The Macaroni Cha-Cha from HL Solo Book 2

Dance of the Court Jester from HL Solo Book 2

Nine Children's Pieces –Satie. They have very funny accompanying texts - things like "we must keep our voices down for my doll has a headache... she fell from the third floor". Three of them are included in Maurice Hinsons' Essential Keyboard Rep. for a Handspan of an Octave or Less. We have done them with the texts as narration and they are always a hit.

Nursery Riffs - John Grier Fun!

Bop Goes the Weasel

The Bear Jogged Over the Mountain

Monkey Business or **Foolin' Around** - Stephen Chatman's. In *Amusements* Vol. 1 book, Frederick Harris,(very easy). The kids basically play a few notes (which are notated) and mix those in with percussive sounds of their own choosing. I saw one little girl perform one of these pieces: she came up to the keyboard with a whole bag full of noisemakers, "gazooglers" and a whistle around her neck! Really hilarious!

15 Humorous Piano Pieces...selected from the works of the World's Great Composers, arranged for the young pianist by Eric Steiner. It is published by Belwin Mills