

Chica-dee-dee-dee-dee

For Solo Piano

By

Heather Hindman

Chica-dee-dee-dee-dee

Suggested by the title, this piece is based on scientifically-recorded bird songs and sounds of the black-capped chickadee—a bird native to the Alberta prairies that young piano students have likely heard and seen as they enjoy the Canadian outdoors.

The piece is openness, freedom, rhythmic hopping, dramatic swoops, and delicate voices.

Duration: 2:00

The composer gratefully acknowledges the Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for sharing and giving permission to reproduce the recordings for creative purposes.

This piece was written in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Contemporary Showcase Edmonton Festival with generous support from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

May, 2018

Performance Notes

1. Diamond head notes: Silently depress the notes--the performer may take time to do this carefully as indicated by the fermatas.

2. Percussive Sounds:

The piano is used to make percussive sounds such as knocking and tapping--the rhythms for these should be strictly followed.

Below are suggestions for creating these sounds, but performers are free to explore other ways to create similar types of sounds:

- I. **Knocking fingernails on the fallboard:** Knock with the surface of all 4 fingernails to create a soft, delicate sound, like a tiny bird beak pecking on tree wood.
- II. **Tap fingertips down the edge of the keyboard:** Some or all the fingertips can be used, tap with the pads of the fingers on the keyboard ledge at the bottom of the white keys.
- III. **Flat hand under the piano:** With a flat hand, hit the bottom of the piano (under the keyboard) to generate a resonance.
- IV. **Stomp your foot:** This sound will very much depend on the type of shoe worn, and the floor surface. The goal is a dull "thud" sound, so a flat-footed shoe is ideal.

3. Optional Recorded Element

The piece has an *aleatoric* ending that the performer can play with or without an accompanying audio file of bird sounds and songs. It is ideal to use the audio if possible, as the sound elements of the piece were generated from this, but the piece can be performed without it.

Logistics: To use the recording in performance, a very simple solution would be:

An iphone or ipad resting on the piano where either the performer or an assistant can press play where indicated in the score. If the device is not loud enough, a small speaker could be connected such as a computer speaker or bluetooth speaker. The audio will fade out automatically when it is done.

Chica-dee-dee-dee-dee

For the 25th Anniversary of the Contemporary Showcase Edmonton Festival

Heather Hindman

Open, and free like a bird

♩ = 112

very rhythmic

little bird feet hopping.....

knock fingernails on the fallboard

Musical score for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 1: Bass clef, whole note chord (Bb, D, F, Ab) with a fermata. Measure 2: Bass clef, quarter note chord (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 3: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 4: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Dynamics: *f* in measure 2, *p* in measure 3, *p* in measure 4. Performance instructions: "silently depress keys" under the first measure, "knock fingernails on the fallboard" above the last measure.

Musical score for measures 5-8. Measure 5: Treble clef, eighth notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 6: Bass clef, quarter note chord (Bb, D, F, Ab) with a fermata. Measure 7: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 8: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Dynamics: *p* in measure 5, *f* in measure 7, *p* in measure 8. Performance instructions: "knock fingernails on the fallboard" above measure 5.

Musical score for measures 9-12. Measure 9: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 10: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 11: Bass clef, quarter note chord (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 12: Treble clef, eighth notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Dynamics: *f* in measure 9, *mp* in measure 11, *f* in measure 12. Performance instructions: "Flat hand under piano" under measure 10, "knock fingernails on the fallboard" above measure 11, "tap fingertips down the edge of the keyboard" below measure 12.

Musical score for measures 13-16. Measure 13: Bass clef, eighth notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 14: Bass clef, quarter note chord (Bb, D, F, Ab) with a fermata. Measure 15: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 16: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Dynamics: *p* in measure 13, *f* in measure 14, *pp* in measure 15, *mp* in measure 16. Performance instructions: "knock fingernails on the fallboard" above measure 15.

Musical score for measures 17-20. Measure 17: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 18: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 19: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Measure 20: Treble clef, quarter notes (Bb, D, F, Ab) with an accent (>). Dynamics: *f* in measure 17, *f* in measure 18, *f* in measure 19, *f* in measure 20. Performance instructions: "knock fingernails on the fallboard" above measure 17.

21 *8va* -----

stomp your foot!

mp

25 *8va* -----

f

Flat hand under piano

28 rub any surface with a flat hand to make a white noise sound

mp

_____ (hold pedal)

31 *8va* ----- (both hands)

mf

mp

4

^_____ (hold pedal)

33 *8va* -----

stomp your foot!

21 *8va* -----

stomp your foot! *mp*

25 *8va* -----

f Flat hand under piano

28 rub any surface with a flat hand to make a white noise sound

mp

_____ (hold pedal)

31 *8va* ----- (both hands)

mf *mp*

^_____ (hold pedal)

4

33 *8va* -----

mp

stomp your foot!

36 *(8va)* *15^{ma}* *8va*

mp *f* *subito p*

(sim.)

39 *(8va)*

mf

42 *(8va)* *Brillantly, wings spreading* *a tempo*

poco. rit. *ff* *8va*

(hold pedal to end of piece)

45 *15^{ma}* *arms come together, like a beak closing* *15^{ma}*

8va *ff* *f* *mf*

Flat hand under piano

49 *15^{ma}* *15^{ma}*

mp *p*

tap fingertips on the fallboard

If using audio, turn it on here

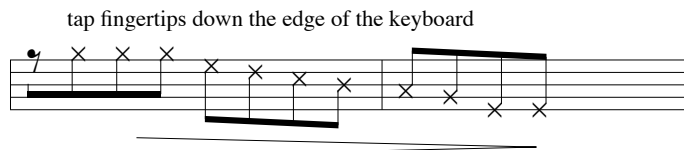
Ending (with or without audio)

Ending with audio:

1. Hold the pedal
2. Play in any order
3. Take 2-3 sec between
4. Dynamics should blend with recording
5. To finish: let resonance die away as audio fades, lift pedal when audio stops

Ending without audio:

1. Hold the pedal
2. Play in any order
3. Take 2-3 sec between
4. To finish: let resonance die away before lifting the pedal



play measure 2X, but not in a row



rub any surface,
white noise sound



stomp your foot!