

# Performance Notes

## 1. Whirlpool

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Whirlpools are found where currents from different directions meet. I saw one off the coast of Wales on a boat trip. This piece is based on the circle of 5ths starting from A minor. The 8-bar sequence is repeated five times, each time increasing in intensity.

## 2. Rising Tide

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The repetitive nature of this music describes the unstoppable body of water which sweeps across the bay and the danger it poses to unsuspecting beachgoers. Once, I was caught out and alarmed at how quickly the water rose so high that my feet could no longer touch the bottom.

## 3. Seagull Attack

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While eating a salmon sandwich in Brighton, a greedy seagull landed on my head, much to the amusement of onlookers. I screamed and the unsuccessful thief took off. The discordant note clusters and rising chromatic scale depict the dangerous nature of this experience.

## 4. Mango Merengue

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Think of bright sunshine, sweet tropical fruits and people dancing as you play this lively, cheerful piece with rapid semiquavers and syncopations.

## 5. Sand in my Sandwich

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The humorous swing of the melody and syncopated accompaniment describes the frustration of a seaside picnic on a windy day when fine sand blasts onto your face and gives your food a gritty texture.

## 6. Broken Seashells

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Most seashells found on the beach are cracked and contain holes after being battered by the waves. Similarly, the storms of life leave some people broken and scarred. There is a mixture of melancholy and hope in this mellow piece.

## 7. Lounging by the Pool

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Sit back, relax, and sip a cool drink as you perform this jazzy number with lots of scrunchy chords. The middle section has a pattern in contrary motion and is rather fun to play. The piece ends with straight quavers.

## 8. The Sailboat

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This peaceful solo has a two against three rhythm to begin with, but settles into a regular compound duple time. The middle section in a minor key suggests that a storm is brewing. The last section has a continuous semiquaver flow to depict smooth sailing to the end.

## 9. Beach Barbecue

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This lively Latin dance has lots of syncopated arpeggios and though it starts in E minor, it ends happily in G major. Get someone to play some shakers or maracas as you perform.

## 10. Moonlight Walk

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This romantic nocturne in C sharp minor has an ascending melodic sequence. Play with lots of rubato and take your time over the low bass chords.

## **11. A Budding Romance**

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This instrumental has a slight pop ballad feel. The excitement of falling in love is described in the 'outro' with its incessant semiquaver pattern.

## **12. Driftwood**

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Imagine a piece of wood, sometimes merrily floating across the sea but other times being tossed about by rough waves in stormy weather. Eventually, it comes to rest on a beach far away from where it started its journey.

## **13. Watching Dolphins**

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This piece describes the excitement of spotting dolphins on a boat ride. The flowing triplets reflect the fast and graceful undulating movements of these magical creatures. The loud chords in the middle section suggest their twirling somersaults as they leap into the air.

## **14. The Lighthouse**

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The fluctuation of darkness and light as the lens rotate in a lighthouse is reflected in the alternate passages of bass and treble chords. Make sure the melody is not lost in the thick texture.

## **15. Sand Dunes**

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Another pop-influenced composition with lots of syncopation describing the shifting sand dunes shaped by the relentless wind.

## **16. Without You**

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This melancholy ballad describes the loneliness and emptiness one can feel just by staring at the vast horizon of the sea. The second half of this piece has an improvisatory feel.

## **17. The Surfer**

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The heavy rock-style bass alternates between dotted rhythms in the outer sections and pounding quavers in the middle section where the fearless surfer rides on gigantic waves. The ending becomes calmer as the surfer returns to the safety of the beach.

## **18. Funky Crab**

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Starting with doubling octaves, the music progresses to heavy, chromatic discords and blues scale runs. The middle section has an ostinato bass line with an improvisatory-feel melody.

## **19. Al Fresco**

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This time, the outdoor dining experience is more pleasant than the sandy sandwich affair. This chilled, jazzy piece has wide leaps in the bass part which requires careful pedalling.

## **20. Land's End**

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Inspired by the wind-swept cliff in Cornwall, this finale contains repeated arpeggio patterns and bass melodies depicting the rise and fall of the waves.