

STAGE 11

Assuming that you have played conscientiously through Book 1, you should now be able to play the next two pieces well enough to give yourself, and anyone listening, pleasure – which, after all, is the point of learning the instrument.

These tunes are very different from each other in mood, but they are both very popular, and both cracking good melodies. Almost certainly you will have heard them.

Practise slowly to begin with, making certain of the correct notes and rhythms.

The more difficult bits have been taken out of the tune (in the Action Replays) for separate slow and repeated practice.

THEME FROM SWAN LAKE

P. Tchaikovsky (1840-93)

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The musical score for the Theme from Swan Lake is presented in five staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The music begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff continues the melody with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes a slur over a group of notes. The third staff shows a crescendo (*p cresc.*) and a forte (*f*) dynamic, with a slur over a complex rhythmic passage. The fourth staff features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, with a slur over a melodic line. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a diminuendo (*dim.*) dynamic and a piano (*p*) dynamic, ending with a double bar line.