

Clara Schumann - Notturmo Nocturne op. 6 n. 2

Written in 1834, when she was just 15 years old, Clara Schumann's Nocturne in F Major is a typically dream-like and romantic affair, dripping with the sentiment and dynamic range popular of the genre. The piece begins somewhat languid and patient, with a repeated left hand figure that sets the foundation on which the right hand is free to elaborate, with plenty of decoration and colour. The middle section is faster and slightly more frenetic, introducing a somewhat insistent left hand, leaving the right hand to soar into ever higher registers, before settling down for a return to the original feel, and finally drawing to a new harmonic direction for a very soft and delicate ending.

One Summer's Day - Joe Hisaishi

Written as part of the score for the 2001 animated film *Spirited Away*, One Summer's day is heard during the opening moments of the film, and sets the tone for the rest of the movie. At once wistful, harmonically abstract, and gentle, it allows the audience to understand the nature of the film at the outset. The main themes are present throughout the piece, with a departure in feeling marked by a tempo change and shift in emotional gear at the very end of the piece, capturing the events on-screen perfectly.

There Is No Greater Love - Isham Jones

This 1936 jazz standard has been a reliable staple of the genre since its composition. Originally performed as a ballad by jazz orchestras, it has also been performed as a medium to up-tempo "trad jazz" piece in many other ensemble settings (solo piano, duet, trio and so on). I will be performing in the familiar jazz structure of presenting the "head" before moving into a solo. The manner in which I will be playing this piece is improvised, having had the lead sheet memorised.

Over The Rainbow - Harold Arlen

Originally written for the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, this piece became very popular as a standalone song, and has seen versions by Doris Day, Tony Bennet, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Sara Vaughan, and Eva Cassidy, to name but a few. The uplifting and somewhat ethereal nature of the piece, coupled with the widespread recognition due to the popularity of the film, led to *Over The Rainbow* having firm status as a Jazz Standard, which is the style in which I will be performing this song.