

Louis Köhler (1820–1886) was a famous pianist, conductor, composer, and teacher. He wrote three operas, a ballet, and many piano studies and pieces still widely used today. This example of his music shows how he could produce a tuneful piece that also helps to build piano technique. It is a valuable study in phrasing, dynamics, legato and staccato touch, the short appoggiatura, the chromatic scale (of course), and it is fun to play.

Chromatic Polka

Louis Köhler

Allegro moderato

The musical score for 'Chromatic Polka' is written for piano in 2/4 time, key of D major. It is marked 'Allegro moderato'. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The music is characterized by a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various fingerings indicated by numbers 1-5. The second system continues the melodic and harmonic development. The third system shows a return of some earlier motifs. The fourth system concludes with a 'Fine' marking. The score includes many slurs, ties, and specific fingering instructions throughout.

*Play the *short appoggiaturas* very quickly, on the beat of the following large note.

Scott Joplin provided the tempo for this piece: "NOT FAST!" Keeping this in mind, the student will have no trouble playing the sixths in the right hand, especially since passages moving in sixths have been played since Level 2, and are found in any number of the recital pieces preceding this one, in this book. *THE ENTERTAINER* should be played no faster than the sixths can be comfortably executed.

The Entertainer

Not fast!

Scott Joplin
Adapted by P. M. & L.

The musical score for "The Entertainer" is presented in four systems. Each system contains a right-hand (R.H.) and left-hand (L.H.) part. The R.H. part is characterized by a melody consisting of many sixths, with some triplets and slurs. The L.H. part provides a harmonic accompaniment. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. Dynamics include forte (f), piano (p), and crescendo/decrescendo hairpins. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

System 1: R.H. starts with a triplet of sixths (4 5 3 1) and a single sixth (3 1). L.H. starts with a triplet of sixths (2 1 3 5) and a single sixth (3 5). Dynamics: *f*.

System 2: R.H. continues with sixths. L.H. continues with sixths. Dynamics: *f*.

System 3: R.H. continues with sixths. L.H. continues with sixths. Dynamics: *f*.

System 4: R.H. continues with sixths. L.H. continues with sixths. Dynamics: *f*.

The POLONAISE is a Polish national dance of a stately and festive character. It is always in triple meter (usually $\frac{3}{4}$ time), and is believed to have developed from courtly ceremonies and processions. Chopin was probably the greatest composer of polonaises, and wrote many that are still played by the world's foremost concert pianists.

Polonaise

KEY OF C MINOR

Key Signature: 3 flats ($B\flat$, $E\flat$, & $A\flat$)

Maestoso

Based on a traditional Polish tune

The musical score is written for piano (p) in the key of C minor (three flats: $B\flat$, $E\flat$, $A\flat$) and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked **Maestoso**. The score is based on a traditional Polish tune. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system includes a key signature box and a tempo marking. The music is characterized by stately, rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. The first system has a key signature box indicating C minor and a tempo marking of Maestoso. The second system continues the melody with various fingerings and slurs. The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence.