

Random Acts of Kindness
version for Bassoon and Piano

for Eugene Rousseau

Don Freund
2015

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Random Acts of Kindness

Even though the intense lyricism of the song that forms the core of *Random Acts of Kindness* is tinged with bittersweetness, it is set in a world of hope, empathy, and touches of whimsy and playfulness.

Too often, I believe, our attention is turned towards the dark side of our human nature, but if we take the time to notice, we can find a world filled with inexplicable selflessness, seemingly random acts of kindness, warmth and concern, strangers who don't hesitate to offer help and a glow of humanity at any opportunity. When I think of Gene Rousseau, I recognize him as a personification of this grace. And so, in celebrating his retirement, it seems appropriate to write a piece reflecting on all the acts of kindness he has offered to so many as a performer, teacher, colleague, and very special human being.

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

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♩ = ca. 52, with a great deal of expressive rubato

Bassoon

mf, reflective

mf

touches of Pedal

4

push a little...

intense

poco marcato

7

relax

slow for cadence

♩ = 52 (tempo primo)

p

p

mf

10

mp, accompanying

f *mf*

13

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

sva

mp *f*

P P

16

held back *tempo agitato*

sva

p *f, heavy* *f*

mf *p* *f*

18

slowing *largamente* ♩ = 52 (*tempo primo*)

f, rich

P P P

20

f *f*

P P

P P P

23

held back

P P P P

25

slower *slowing* *still slower*

mf, sweet *mp, wistful*

mf *mp*

27

$\text{♩} = 80$ (*subito tempo giusto*) $\text{♩} = 60$ $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 52$

mf, bright *f, singing* *mf, perky* *f, heavy*

slowing *slowing*

p *mf* *mf*

p

29 $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 72$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$

f *slowing*
heavy
P P P P P P P

31 $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 60$

p, light *mf* *slowing*
mf, bright *f*

32 $\text{♩} = 80$ *slowing* ----- $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing*

p *f* *bring out thumbs (middle voice)*
mf *f* *slowing*
P

34 $\text{♩} = 72$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing*

f, playful *ff*
P P P P

36 ♩ = 72, *tempo giusto*

Musical score for measures 36-38. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 36 starts with a half note F# in the treble staff. Measures 37-38 feature a 4/8 time signature. Performance markings include *p, light* in the treble staff and *f* in the bass staff. A *p* marking appears in the bass staff at the start of measure 38, and *crisp* is written in the treble staff.

Musical score for measures 39-41. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 39 starts with a half note F# in the treble staff. Measures 40-41 feature a 4/8 time signature. Performance markings include *mf, lyrical* in the treble staff and *mf, "staccato"* in the bass staff. A *p* marking is present in the bass staff at the start of measure 41. A *no Pedal* instruction is written below the grand staff.

(♩ = ♪ = 144)

Musical score for measures 42-44. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 42 starts with a half note F# in the treble staff. Measures 43-44 feature a 4/8 time signature. Performance markings include *playful* in the treble staff.

Musical score for measures 45-47. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 45 starts with a half note F# in the treble staff. Measures 46-47 feature a 4/8 time signature. Performance markings include *f* in the treble staff and *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *mf* in the bass staff.

49

f

p *p* *p* *p* *p*

51

ff > *mf* *f* *fp*

ff *mf* *slowing*

$\text{♩} = 48$ $\text{♩} = 144$

55

f *molto espressivo* *p* *mf*

mf

$\text{♩} = 60$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 72$

58

mf *f*

slowing

$\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 48$

61 *push...* ♩ = 60 *slower* ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 48

p

f

P

63 ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 58 ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 52

mf

mp

mf

mf

P P

65 *push...* ♩ = 60 *slowing* ♩ = 52

mf

mf

f

mp

f

P P P

67

f, intense

intense

P P P P P

P P

69 $\text{♩} = 44$ ($\text{♩} = 88$) $\text{♩} = 72$. *very free*

f *p*
f *mf*

71 *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$

mf *p* *mf*
p *mp* *f*

73 *extreme rubato* $\text{♩} = 52$ *slowing*

p *pp*
mf *pp*
p *p*

