

Peter Jancewicz

Intermediate (RCM Grades 4–7)

Lucky Charms, Books 1 and 2 (2008, 2009)

"Music to Charm and Train the Ears" This is a book of 18 pieces written by Roberta Stephen and I. Each piece is based on a different interval. This book includes major seconds, major and minor thirds, perfect fourths and perfect fifths. Here is an excerpt from the foreword:

“Lucky Charms” is designed to help make ear training an enjoyable and artistic experience. Unfortunately, the term “ear-training” itself tends to strike terror in the hearts of students and teachers alike. It conjures up a dreary image of countless attempts to identify elusive intervals, fruitless wrestling with melodic dictation, and sight singing with a clumsy, uncooperative voice. In fact, we referred to it in university as “ear-straining and sight-screaming” (ear training and sight singing). This is ironic, because music is sound which should give us pleasure, and it is with our ears that we listen to music. Perhaps instead of “ear training”, we should call it “ear charming”. And piano lessons, above all else, are lessons in ear charming. We do all sorts of other things in music, but if our ears aren’t properly trained and charmed, we don’t get anywhere. First, we teach our ears what to listen for, and then we teach our bodies to make those sounds on the piano.

RCM 2-8. Available from [Alberta Keys](#), [Rideau Music](#), or your local music store.

Sleep, My Child (2002).

This is a berceuse, or lullaby. I think it is very beautiful and sweet. It is also a great ear training piece for major and minor seconds, and teaches balancing a melody and accompaniment in the same hand. RCM 4-5, 2 pages, \$5

Song without Words (2002)

A lovely romantic song without words in the style of Mendelssohn and Schubert. In 6/8 time and marked "adagio sostenuto", this piece will inspire anyone to sing at the piano. RCM 5-6, 2 pages, \$5

Blue (2001)

A melancholy piece with an impressionist Ravel-like sound. The accompaniment is in open fifths blending together to make a lovely minor 7th type of character. Can be played in the style of an improvisation. RCM 6-7, 2 pages, \$5

Kaleidoscope Toccata

A popular and brilliant recital piece in ABA form. The A section consists of a toccata-like ostinato with an agitato melody surfing on top. The B section has rhythm inspired by Bernstein's "I Want to Live in America" from "West Side Story". The piece ends with a wink. RCM 5. Publisher: [Alfred](#).

Sketches of Canada

includes four sketches inspired by my experiences travelling in Canada. The first, "Misty Canadian Mornings", is a jazzy meditation in the style of Bill Evans. The second, "Fisherman's Shanty" is a rollicking dance from the Maritime provinces with allusions to a couple of folksongs: "I'se the B'y that Builds the Boat" from Newfoundland, and "A Farewell to Nova Scotia" from... well, you know. "Prairie Hymn" evokes the vast quiet of the Canadian prairie provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The final piece, "Carnaval du Quebec" captures the energy and joy of the famous Quebec Carnaval. You will also find a quote from the Quebecois folksong, "Ah, si mon moine voulait danser!". RCM 6-8, Publisher: [Alfred](#).

The Anabanana Rag

I once had a student named Ana who loved ragtime music. I wrote this fun little piece for her. RCM 4. Publisher: [Alfred](#)

The Coronation (1999)

A majestic march over a ground bass in baroque style. The Coronation makes a dramatic opener for a student recital. RCM 5-6, 3 pages, \$5

Elegy (1999)

There is an easier version of the Elegy in the Elementary catalogue. RCM 4-5, 2 pages, \$5

Russian Elegy (1999)

In ABA form, the first part has a C-minor cello-like melody with a Russian flavour in the left hand accompanied by march-like quarter note chords in the right. The B section has a variation of the melody in C-major in the right hand, sounding very sweet and nostalgic in contrast to the sorrow of the A sections. RCM 4-5, 2 pages, \$5