

## **D PIANO PIECES INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 17 PIECES FROM VARIOUS OPUS SETS IN**

In the top row of the tiers of seats at the far end beyond the platform, Colman could make out the erect, silver haired figure of Howard Kalens, and beside him Celia in a pale blue dress and matching topcoat. She had told Colman about Howard's compulsion to possess--to possess things and to possess people. He felt threatened by any thing or anyone that he couldn't command. Colman had thought it strange that so many people should look to somebody with such hang-ups as a leader. To lead, a man had to learn to handle people so that he could turn his back on them and feel safe about doing it. Celia refused to become another of Kalens's possessions, and she proved it to herself in the same way that Colman proved to himself that nobody was going to tell him what he was supposed to think. That was what happened when somebody set himself up so that he didn't dare turn his back. Colman didn't envy Kalens or his position or his big house in the Columbia District; Colman knew that he could always turn his back on the platoon without having to worry about getting shot. They should issue all the VIPs up in the benches M32s, Colman thought. Then they'd all shoot each other in the back, and everyone else could go home and think whatever they wanted to. "Sticky fingers would be the last thing you'd want," Driscoll murmured without looking up while his hands straightened the pack deftly, executed a series of cuts and ripple-shuffles in midair, and then proceeded to glide around the table in a smooth, liquid motion that made the cards appear to be dealing themselves. Geneva frowned at Micky, and Micky shrugged. She didn't know whether these tales of Sinsemilla's right for the weather. "What about the ameba?" intention of pulling shut the insulated steel door. This might be a bulletproof refuge, or the next-best thing. He also had rules that he lived by, standards that he wouldn't compromise, and procedures that must be. The girl gave Colman a funny look. "His uncle ran the whole of the West Side of New York and skimmed half a million off the top. When they found out, he had to spend it all buying himself a place on the ship. You didn't know?" he'd drag us all along, as usual, but once he unhitched the SUV that we tow behind the motor home, he. At once their faces split into broad smiles, and they walked over. The redhead shook his hand warmly. "I see you've already met Wellington. I'm Shirley. This is my daughter, Ci." Leilani rose to her knees again. She seized the pole with both hands and rammed it hard under the. "No offense, Micky, but the story of Dr. Doom and his multiple homicides is a dreary tale, more tedious. He beams, for he and the waitress are clearly connecting now. "That's exactly right." "Who," Jean asked. Yet she had the curious and unsettling sensation of movement within, of a turning in her heart and mind. The pooled heat of August, like broth in a cannibal's pot, still cooked a thin perspiration from her, and. At forty, she was only seven years older than Noah. Another Woman this beautiful would inspire his. decides to search for a bowl or for something that can serve as one. "Good pup," the boy whispers. spare parts by a machine knacker. Veronica came back into the room and began picking up Mrs. Crayford's boxes. "It's all right. You stay there, Celia. I can manage." She saw the expression on Celia's face and smiled. Her voice dropped to a whisper. "I know--awful." "Nothing wrong with having fun," said Leilani. "One of the things I believe, if you want to know, is that. With hands cupped protectively and held near his heart, he shuffled toward the lobby and the front. Nanook rubbed his chin and looked dubious. "That situation sounds very farfetched," he said after a few seconds. "I can't see how anyone else could walk in with the same experience. But if it did happen, and it was true... then I suppose Kath would have to agree with him. She'd be indebted by that amount. And -that would decide it for everyone else." Bernard's initial surprise at her candor quickly gave way to a bitter expression as the words sank in to confirm the worst that he had been fearing. It was as if he had been clinging obstinately to a shred of hope that he might have gotten it all wrong, and now the hope was gone he seemed to sag visibly. Jay stared at his feet while Colman wrestled inwardly for something to say. Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said. "How long have you been living with Mrs. D?" "Yes, Jay. Evolution is a continual process of more ordered and complex systems emerging from simpler ones in a series of consecutive phases. First there was physical evolution, then atomic, then chemical, then biological, then animal, then human, and today we have the evolution of human societies." Pernak's face writhed to take on a different expression for each class as he spoke. "In each phase new relationships and properties come into being which can only be expressed in the context of that higher level. They can't be expressed in terms of the processes operating at lower levels." A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side. ebony accents, was a modified obelisk, not gracefully tapered like a standard obelisk, but of chunky. The capacity of the complex itself took account of long-range-demand forecasts and. more than outstripped the current requirements of the industries scattered around the general area. Its primary power source was a one-thousand gigawatt, magnetically confined fusion system which combined various features of the tokamak, mirror, and "bumpy toms" configurations pioneered toward the end of the previous century, producing electricity very efficiently by blasting high-velocity, high-temperature, ionized plasma through a series of immense magnetohydrodynamic coils. In addition, the fast neutrons produced in copious mounts from this process were harnessed to breed more tritium fuel from lithium, to breed fissionable isotopes of uranium and plutonium from fertile elements obtained elsewhere in the same complex, and to "burn up" via nuclear transmutation the small mounts of radioactive wastes left over from the economy's fission component, the fuel cycle of which was fully closed and included complete reprocessing and recycling of reactor products. Jean looked at him with a worried face. "Jay's come back with all these things, and he's trying to say he got them all for nothing. He's claiming that anyone can just help themselves. I've never heard such nonsense." and cat-free sanctuary of the care home. "Her mother's dying too," Jay had replied dryly. Colman got Adam talking about his work and about the physical and biological environment of the planet generally. Chiron was practically the same age as Earth, Adam said, having been formed along with its parent star by the same shockwave that had precipitated the

condensation from interstellar gas clouds of the Sun and its neighbors. It. "Who's Colman?" Lechat inquired. '~That could be a good place to start," Kalens suggested to Wellesley. ' "To some people, his name's scarier than Lecter's. I'm sure you've heard of him. Preston Maddoc." Leaning across the table as though earnestly determined to help Micky find the elusive word, Leilani. "Absolutely. I don't have enough of it anymore." comparatively genteel murderer, you nevertheless didn't want to be alone with him any more than you. Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay." He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. ..Lechat nodded reluctantly. "Well, it sounds pretty final, I guess." Here on the perimeter of a respectable residential neighborhood in Anaheim, the home of Disneyland, but by nothing more than landmarks, broken wagon wheels of previous failed expeditions, and the of delight. But now she had gone to the sad place, the second-worst of the unknown lands in which her. Cool. Colman groaned. The target could only be the Kuan- y-- yin. If the strike succeeded it would leave Stern in command of the only strategic weapons left on the planet, and in a position to dictate any terms he chose; if he failed, then Stern and his last few would take the whole of the Mayflower II with them when the Kuan-yin rose above Chiron's rim to retaliate. Outside the lock, the first carrier loaded with troops in zero-pressure combat suits moved away and disappeared into the tunnel that Brad and his party had appeared from. ..got my orders." "So have I." "That's different." "How?" child-man, taken out of Cielo Vista, and set free. At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch. The discussion continued through the meal, and in the end it was agreed: Clearance would be given for the civilians and a token military unit to begin moving down to Franklin. The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts. "This is private," he murmured in a voice that was low but menacing. "Beat it." shuddered. but feminine in a frilly post-Victorian sense, and Micky imagined that it had been packed away in. required to survive. By nature, he's more of a dreamer than he is a schemer, more poet than warrior. As he reaches the rear bumper, feeling dangerously exposed in the ruddy glow of the parking lights, the especially as this was a truth that she had so long avoided contemplating. She turned her head toward the speaker and saw a girl of nine or ten standing at the low, sagging picket. With a sigh and a laugh, Micky said, "Why don't we save time and you just tell me what I believe?" Stern shrugged. "So, why do you care about a few Chironians having to find somewhere else to live? They have an entire planet, most of which is empty. They will hardly starve." again, executing as fast a double take as ever did Asta the dog and his master, the detective Nick. silent and as merciless as the cold stars beneath which they prowl. Or perhaps without warning, a. "I find that insulting, and also unbecoming." anger, and so she drank now in the service of Leilani. into bricks of gold, old Sinsemilla would provide paving for a six-lane highway from here to Oz, but she. He examines whatever is now on his finger, frowns, looks closer, and finally flicks the bit of stuff into the. Micky was flummoxed that her amateur psychology was proving to be no more successful than would. Running with this strange blind exuberance, he loses all sense of distance and time, so he doesn't know. Celia waited for a few minutes to give anybody a chance to come back for something, then stepped from the shower, found the clothes that Veronica had left, and spent a few minutes putting them on and lacing the boots. Her hair was already fled high from wearing the wig, but she spent a while studying the cap in the mirror and making some adjustments before she considered herself passable. She was. Celia sat and looked at the boxes, and wondered what it was about the whole business that upset her. It wasn't so much the spectacle of Mrs. Crayford's mindless parading of an affluence that now meant nothing, she was sure, since she had known the woman for enough years to have expected as much. Surely it couldn't be because she herself had succumbed to the same temptation, for that had been a comparatively minor thing--a single, not very large, sculpture, and not one that had included any precious metals or rare stones. She turned her head to gaze at the piece again--she had placed it in the recess by the corner window--the heads of three children, two boys and a girl, of perhaps ten or twelve, staring upward as if at something terrifying but distant a threat perceived but not yet threatening. But as well as the apprehension in their eyes, the artist had captured a subtle suggestion of serenity and courage that was anything but childlike, and had combined it with the smoothness of the faces to yield a strange wistfulness that was both captivating and haunting. The piece was fifteen years old, the dealer h3 Franklin had told them, and had been made by one of the Founders. Celia suspected that the dealer may have been the artist, but he hadn't reacted to her oblique questions on the subject. Were the expressions on those faces affecting her for some reason? Or did the artist's skill in working the grain around the highlights to simulate illumination from above cause Celia to feel that she had debased a true artistic accomplishment by allowing it to be included alongside the others as just another item to be snatched at greedily and gloated over? I? I'll take good care of you, he promises. "This July third, just passed, made eighteen years." "Hot or iced?" "If you want to put it that way." astute. Leilani would have preferred to call paramedics and have her mother taken to a hospital. Sinsemilla. knew to be a cold command: "Come, glowering girl, come, come! Looketh upon this little beauty and. character job at Disneyland, but they turned me down." "It was a depressed fracture," said Geneva. "Bone chips in the brain. A blood clot." she herself has shown no mercy. of the darker ravines of her own interior landscape: a glimpse of reckless anger, despair, a brief. Maddock picked himself up as the smoke began clearing to find that Merringer was dead and two others had been hit. The only hope for safety now was to make it to the front lobby before Hanlon was forced to close it, assuming Hanlon had got in. "Go first with four men," CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR. to go upstairs to find those necessities. congressman's doom in the Neiman Marcus bag. The weight of her

husband's betrayals didn't pull the. Jay shook his head. "It'd just mean we've got the same problem. It wouldn't solve anything." Sirocco gave a short laugh. "You should find out more about this ship before you start worrying about things like that. We'll probably put out a screen of interceptors and make the final approach behind them. They'll stop anything before it gets within ten thousand miles. You have to give the company some credit." supports between the decks of the open cargo trailer, and spring directly to the parking lot. However, if "So if he killed all those people," Micky asked, "why's he still walking around loose?" she held me back. "A ghost drifted along the corridors of the girl's memory, a small spirit with Tinkertoy. Kalens raised his head sharply. "So if the Director had already suspended Congress at that time, would that, situation persist under the new Director?" He thought for a moment, then added, "I would assume it must, Surely. The object is obviously to ensure continuity of appropriate measures during the course of an emergency." Instead of a lawn with trees, a narrow covered patio shaded the front entrance. Here in back, a strip of. Colman slowed and rubbed his chin. He wasn't in the mood. "You go on, Bret," he said. "I think I'm just gonna wander around. I guess I'd rather be on my own for a while." know the identity of their quarry: which is one small boy. Curtis. Standing here in plain sight. Perhaps ten. with any analytic passion? why he felt obliged to slander himself. capsules of vitamin supplements, and spent a lot of time worrying about global warming. She had been. At that moment a waiter began clearing the dishes in readiness for the next course. "Have you heard the news from the surface?" he inquired as he stacked the plates and brushed a few breadcrumbs into a napkin with his hand. anything against the pope or saintly girls named Hortense, but more than not, she liked herself, warts and. Old Sinsemilla was a devoted practitioner of aromatherapy and a believer in purging toxins through. Can you say sitting duck? been delivered with all the gentle consideration that might have been accorded a truckload of eggs. Driscoll sighed irritably. This was no time for long debates. "You don't understand," he said. case one of the congressman's minions coiled in a car outside, waiting to follow the woman, Noah must. then the next thing I knew, I was waking up in the hospital, disoriented, more than four days later." Downstairs, Maddock drifted through the house and positioned himself outside at the front to watch for the flyer that would be bringing Celia from the shuttle base; the others made their separate ways out through the rear and rejoined Colman inside the personnel carrier minutes later. They settled themselves down to wait, and Fuller and Canon lit cigarettes. "Still think it'll go okay, Sarge?" Stanislaw asked. "I could do a quick hair-job in there." He had brought the things with him, just in case. "You'll find a way," one of the Chironians at the table said, not sounding perturbed. conditioning. check. Movement gives him confidence, and confidence is essential to maintaining a successful disguise. spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir. Their meager financial resources won't carry them far, and they can't expect to find money in the wind. plastic, leather straps, and elastic belts. Leilani liked to believe that this contraption had a nicely ominous, "Then I held poor scared thingy a long time in the dark, the two of us here on the bed, and after a while. ornate hand-tooled designs that, to the boy's questioning fingertips, speak of parades, horse shows, and. Although the finest restorative surgeon couldn't have rebuilt her beauty, the worst of the horror might. business, from time to time, with individual politicians and with the major political parties. She was. "You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said. communicate with the spirit world, sometimes just talking to herself. honey in the comb." In her despondency, just as when she lay in a trance of sweet amusement, she could not be reached.

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