

# AMERICAN MUSIC ROADS SCHOLAR

for 2 pianos, 4 hands, and 9 brains



**by David Cutler**

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*commissioned by the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association (PMTA)*

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**by David Cutler (2012)**

## AMERICAN MUSIC ROADS SCHOLAR (2012)

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|--|------------|
| I. <b>MARDI GRAS: Marti's Grass Parade</b>       | 4½ minutes |
| II. <b>TECHNO: Neon Club Music</b>               | 5½ minutes |
| III. <b>PATRIOTIC MINIMALISM: American Gates</b> | 5½ minutes |
| IV. <b>BLUEGRASS: Rocky Mountain Jam</b>         | 2 minutes  |

### PROGRAM NOTES

Dr. Cy LaPhone, the fictional but highly personable musicologist, is one of the world's leading experts on American music. At least in his own mind. He travels the country nonstop, dissecting a colossal range of styles (from patriotic melodies to techno grooves), and writes about his findings with a feather pen and an open mind.

His frequent articles—with riveting, awe inspiring titles such as *A First Look at How Second Line Music has Influenced Third World Countries to Move Forth* and *Using Discourse and Critical Textual Analysis to Explore how Discursive and Extra-Discursive Aspects Combine to Influence the Creation of and Resistance to Hee-Haw: A Bluegrass Expedition*—have earned him such raving reviews as “a field leader,” “way smarter than my ferret,” and “a pretentious boob.”

Of course, it's not easy keeping track of so many musical genres. The nuances...the twang...the “blue” notes...Perhaps as a result, Dr. LaPhone has been known to exaggerate or confuse the facts from time to time. But that doesn't stop this Roads Scholar. Not in the least.

### PERFORMANCE NOTES

The four movements of this piece may be played together or individually.

In addition to the pianos, additional sounds requested include:

- I. **MARDI GRAS: Marti's Grass Parade**
  - Whistle (player 1)
  - Pop gun (player 1)
- II. **TECHNO: Neon Club Music**
  - Vocal sounds (players 1 & 2)
  - Small velvet handbag or other similarly textured object to muffle strings (player 1)
  - CD cases placed on strings (players 1 & 2)
- III. **PATRIOTIC MINIMALISM: American Gates**
  - Singing (players 1 & 2)
  - Music box that plays “America the Beautiful” optional (player 1)

Theatrical aspects are welcome and encouraged. Players may incorporate costume elements reflecting each movement. For example:

- I. **MARDI GRAS.** Bead necklaces.
- II. **TECHNO.** Player 1 punk wig, player 2 graduation cap.
- III. **PATRIOTIC MINIMALISM.** American flag.
- IV. **BLUEGRASS.** Long beards, cowboy hats.

# I. MARDI GRAS:

By David Cutler

## I. MarTi'S Grass Parade

$\text{♩} = 156$  Swing 8ths  
*8va-*

Piano 1

*fff* *f*

whistle 

Piano 2

*mf* *p*

*8vb-----*

6

Pno. 1

*mp*

Pno. 2

*mp*

*8vb-----*

11

Pno. 1

*p*

*leg.*

Pno. 2

MARZI'S GRASS PARADE

15

Pno. 1

*sfz*

*mf*

Pno. 2

*mf*

19

Pno. 1

*f*

*sfz*

*p*

Pno. 2

*p*

*f*

*mf*

(Bb)

23

Pno. 1

*mf*

*mp*

Pno. 2

*mp*

(Eb)

# Martini's Grass Parade

Pno. 1

27

4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4

*f*

Pno. 2

27

4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4

*f*

Pno. 1

30

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4

*p*

Pno. 2

30

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4

*p*

8va-Led.

Pno. 1

34

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4

*sfz* *mf*

Pno. 2

34

3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4

*mf* *fp*

8va-Led.

# II. TECHNO: Neon Club Music

By David Cutler

$\text{♩} = 140$

Piano 1

Piano 2

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8<sup>va</sup>

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

7

2

4

4

4

4

4

4

8<sup>va</sup>

3

(B)

*ff*

11

*mf*

*p*

10

*mp*

*f*

8<sup>vb</sup>

\*

# Neon Club Music

20

**A**

Pno. 1

*f*  
slap hand on piano

+ = fist  
o = open palm

18

Pno. 1

21

**B**

Pno. 1

*p*

Pno. 2

*p*

26

Pno. 1

*mp* *ff*

8va  
15ma  
L.H.  
R.H.  
(D#)

Pno. 2

*mp* *p*



# Neon Club Music

## C

Pno. 1 *mf*  
(note the octave clef)

Pno. 2 *f* *mp*

*grad. dec.*

## D

34 Pno. 1 *sfz* *f*

Pno. 2 *sfz* *f*

36 Pno. 1

Pno. 2

# III. PATRIOTIC MINIMALISM: American Gates

By David Cutler

$\text{♩} = 76$

Piano 1

*p*

Piano 2

*leg.*  
walk over to other piano  
sit on high end of bench

stop strings inside  
piano, by nut

5

Pno. 1

*mf* *p*

Pno. 2

A

10

Pno. 1

*leg.*

Pno. 2

*mp*

# American Gates

40

15

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Musical score for measures 15-19. The score is for two pianos (Pno. 1 and Pno. 2). Pno. 1 has two staves (treble and bass clef). Pno. 2 has two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand of Pno. 1, with a melodic line in the left hand. Pno. 2 provides harmonic support with chords and arpeggios. A fermata is present over a note in the right hand of Pno. 1 at measure 18.

20

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Musical score for measures 20-23. The score is for two pianos (Pno. 1 and Pno. 2). Pno. 1 has two staves (treble and bass clef). Pno. 2 has two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music continues with the eighth-note accompaniment in Pno. 1. Pno. 2 features a rhythmic pattern of chords. Dynamic markings *p* and *mf* are used to indicate volume changes. A fermata is present over a note in the right hand of Pno. 1 at measure 22.

24

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Musical score for measures 24-28. The score is for two pianos (Pno. 1 and Pno. 2). Pno. 1 has two staves (treble and bass clef). Pno. 2 has two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music continues with the eighth-note accompaniment in Pno. 1. Pno. 2 features a rhythmic pattern of chords. Dynamic markings *mf*, *p*, and *mp* are used to indicate volume changes. A fermata is present over a note in the right hand of Pno. 1 at measure 27.

# American Gates

29 B

Pno. 1

*mp*

Pno. 2

*mf* *p*

33

Pno. 1

*mf* *p* *mp*

Pno. 2

37

Pno. 1

*p*

Pno. 2

# IV. BLUEGRASS:

By David Cutler

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN JAM

$\text{♩} = 144$

Piano 1

Piano 2

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

*mp* *ff* *ff* *p*

*8va*

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

*spoken*

"One two three"

*f*

**A**

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN JAM

9

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

(D)

*sfz*

12

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

**B**

Pno. 1

*p*

*mp*

*8va*

3/4

3/4

3/4

3/4

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN JAM

C

Piano score for measures 17-18. The system includes two grand staves, Pno. 1 and Pno. 2. Pno. 1 starts with a treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, marked with an 8va (octave) sign and a dashed line above the staff. Pno. 2 starts with a bass clef, key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Piano score for measures 19-20. The system includes two grand staves, Pno. 1 and Pno. 2. Pno. 1 continues with a treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. Pno. 2 continues with a bass clef, key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Piano score for measures 21-22. The system includes two grand staves, Pno. 1 and Pno. 2. Pno. 1 starts with a treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. It features a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. Pno. 2 starts with a bass clef, key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. It features an 8va (octave) sign and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The music is marked *p* (piano).