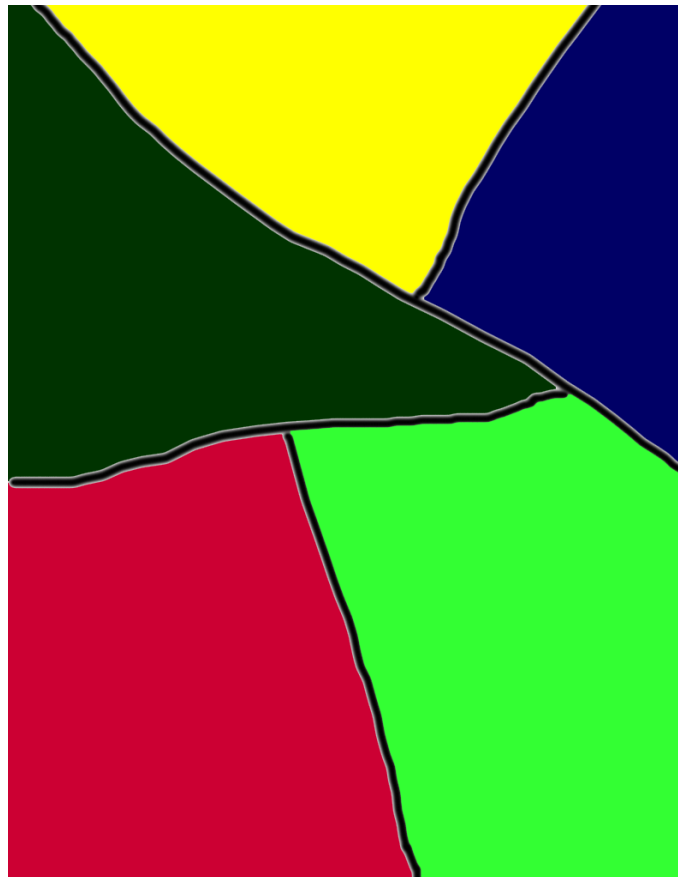


FIVE HALVES FOR BEN

for solo piano



by Harold Fortuin*

*A Fortuitous Artists Publication (*cover art also by Harold Fortuin)*

FIVE HALVES FOR BEN

Teacher's Guide

This piece offers the beginner on piano a simple study in tuplets - in this case, five against two. In other words, for every two notes in the left hand, five in the right hand.

Fortunately, the composer recalls all-too-many piano studies composed with little regard to musical good taste. Although the piece is initially highly repetitive, and suggestive of one of those ultra-repetitive historical piano studies, this one makes a point of altering the patterns just in time - so that instead, the player (and the listener) is left with some pleasant surprises.

It can be best assigned to students at the British Associated Board or Toronto's Royal Conservatory Grade 4 level, or parallel to the Bartok Mikrokosmos Volume 3.

The student will also need to balance the left hand pattern against the right hand melody throughout, and must resist the common tendency to play the left hand part too loud. Also note the "sigh" pattern, already established in measure 1, should be apparent by observing the marked accent on the first note of each.

As to learning the five-to-two tuplet relationship: I suggest starting with the Preliminary Exercises on the next page before learning the piece.

The piece should be played at a very steady tempo throughout, except for the new steady Presto tempo from measure 22 - which should be played as fast as possible.

Please consult the audio attachment as a guide to interpretation.

Composer

Harold Fortuin is the founder of Fortuitous Artists, based in Boston, Mass., USA, and has an international reputation as a leading composer in various genres.

See <http://fortuitous-artists.biz> for further details.

Preliminary Exercises for Five Halves for Ben

Harold Fortuin

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Right Hand

Left Hand

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Right Hand

Left Hand

Exercise 5

Right Hand

Left Hand

Learn each numbered exercise in succession. Start each at a slow tempo, and once correct at the current tempo, repeat at a somewhat quicker tempo. Its final speed should match the tempo of the piece as marked. Using a metronome to set each tempo would help.

Five Halves For Ben (Excerpt)

Harold Fortuin

9 **Andante** (♩ = c. 200)

Piano

13

subito ff

subito p