

SCORE
Pedal Harp

The Nightingale

a Story from Hans Christian Andersen

Storyteller:

The story we are about to share with you is called The Nightingale. It was written by Hans Christian Andersen, a great storyteller from Denmark, who lived over one hundred years ago.

#1 The Nightingale

Alyssa Reit

Flute *Freely* ♩ = 108 *mf*

Harp *mf*

tempo, a little faster

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Long ago in China there lived an Emperor. This Emperor had a great palace that was said to be the most magnificent palace in the world.

#2 The Palace

♩ = 69

f *finger cymbal/chime*

Right by the palace was an extraordinary garden, full of exquisite flowers. This garden was so large that even the royal gardener himself scarcely knew where it ended.

#3 The Garden

♩ = 69

mf

mp

mp

If one went walking in the garden, one would eventually come to a lovely woods that stretched all the way to the deep blue sea. In the pine trees that stood by the shore, there lived a nightingale.

#4 The Nightingale

rubato
piccolo

This little bird sang so beautifully that even the poor fishermen drawing in their nets were compelled to stop what they were doing to listen.

"Ah, so beautiful!" they would say. It didn't matter how many times they had heard the bird's song. It was "So beautiful!" each time.

Travelers came from far and wide to see the amazing palace and garden, but if they also had the good fortune to hear the nightingale, they always said, "This is the best of all."

Some of those visitors were poets and learned men who wrote about their travels, and it happened that one of these books reached the Emperor. Of course he enjoyed reading all the praises of his palace and garden, but when he came to the description of the nightingale...

"What is this!? How can it be—a great treasure in my kingdom, and I am unaware!"

He summoned his gentleman-in-waiting.

#5 The Gentleman-in-Waiting Sequence

♩ = 160

flute
mf

"I read in this book that we have here a bird called a Nightingale, and it says it is the most wonderful thing in my entire realm. Why have you never told me anything about it? It is a disgrace that I only find out from reading a book!"

The gentleman answered, "I have not heard a single word, with-in the court a-bout this bird."

"I wish to have it here this evening to sing for me," said the Emperor; "Imagine, the whole world knows of this and I have never heard it!"

The gentleman said, "I will seek and find it, Sire, to sat-isy your great desire."

#5A

But where? Where was he to look?

#5B

mp
vamp

The gentleman ran throughout the palace, upstairs ... and down stairs...

asking all the courtiers, and ladies-in-waiting: "Can you give me infor-ma-tion re-gard-ing the lo-ca-tion of the fa-mous singing bird? It's called the Nightingale. I've heard."

#5C

Small Drum repeat as needed

#5D

No luck. So he ran back upstairs and back downstairs ...

**asking the all the servants "Can you give me infor-ma-tion re-gard-ing the lo-ca-tion of the fa-mous..." and so on.

* The Gentleman-in-Waiting speaks in Rhythm, with the half note beats on the underlined words. The accompanying percussion should be in time to his beat. It starts where the text rhymes and ends when he stops.

** Same rhythm in this & following segment as previous. The speech is intended to cut off abruptly as indicated.

#SE

Again no luck. Finally he ran outside and back inside asking even the guards and warriors "Can you give me in-formation... etcetera."

No. Nothing. So he went back to the Emperor.

"Your Highness, I have made extensive in-quiries and found that no one knows an-anything about this bird or how his singing goes. I must advise you, therefore, that this Night-ingle is not I fault the writer's pens for making up such silly rat. Your Highness must take great-er care to ques-tion what you read. Such books can bend the fin-est minds towards fol-dishness, in-deed."

#5F & G repeat as needed

"Ah!" said the Emperor, "but this book came from the esteemed and powerful Emperor of Japan! He is an honorable leader! His words cannot be untrue! Now go! Bring me this bird tonight or everyone in the whole court will have their toes tweaked after supper!"

The Gentleman said,

"Your Highness, I will go right now, and find it (though I'm not sure how!)" **[#5G repeat drum as above]**

So he ran everywhere again, and this time half the court ran with him, as no one especially liked having their toes tweaked. They ran

#5H

F# upstair and downstairs inside B A

and outside forwards B and backwards G

and finally! A little kitchen maid—who none of them thought would know anything about anything so they never bothered to even ask her—she knew about the Nightingale!

Set G# A

repeat as needed

"Oh, the Nightingale!" So beautiful! I have heard him many times! When I go to see my mother who lives by the shore, I always stop in the woods to listen. His song brings tears to my eyes."

"Little Kitchen Maid," said the Gentleman-in-Waiting. "Please lead us over hill and dale to find this famous Night-ingle. Our Emp'ror wants to hear his songs; to-night the bird at court belongs. If you assist this in-quisition, I'll g-ivate your job position!"

#5I repeat as needed

"Oh, of course! I will be happy to bring you to see him," she said.

So they all went out and started walking (music starts). Gentleman-in-Waiting, ladies in waiting, courtiers, servants—most of the court, really—following the little Kitchen Maid.

#6 The Walk Underscore Sequence

vamp until "... following the little Kitchen Maid"

They walked for a while.

Suddenly they heard a sound coming from the fields by the garden: "Moo, moo!"

(audience "moos")

One of the young courtiers said, "There it is! How amazing! What a great, powerful sound for a creature as small as a bird!"

"What?!" exclaimed the Kitchen Maid. "No, no! Those are cows bellowing."

"Oh..." said the courtier.

#6A

They walked further, deep into the woods.

And then they heard a new sound: "ribbit, croak, ribbit!"

(audience "ribbits")

"Now I hear it!" said the Court Chaplain "How extraordinary! It almost reminds me of church bells!" "Really? No, no, no!" laughed the Kitchen Maid, "Those are just Frogs! But we are getting close."

Set E#

Keep B# A#

Sure enough, soon they arrived at the sea, where the fishermen were out in their boats, and the tall pine trees stood along the shore.

#7A The Nightingale in the Woods I

And then! The Nightingale began to sing!

"There it is!" said the Kitchen Maid. She pointed to a small grey bird sitting high up in the branches.

Set E#

The Gentleman-in-Waiting looked up, and exclaimed,

"That is it? How plain it looks! Was that mentioned in those books?"

#7B Small Drum

"Dear Little Nightingale," called out the Kitchen Maid, "our great Emperor wishes to hear you sing."

"Of course, with pleasure!" answered the bird.

#7C The Nightingale in the Woods II (maiden interrupts) "Oh!Oh!"

fade out

"I mean tonight, at court," the maiden said.

"Certainly," said the bird. So back they all went to the palace.

#8 Festive Palace flute

vamp It was decorated specially for the occasion, with bright lights and beautiful flowers. F#

F#

All the court was gathered in the Emperor's reception room. Right in front of the Emperor's throne was fixed a small golden rod, where the Nightingale could perch. Everyone's gaze was turned towards the plain looking, little grey bird.

And the Nightingale began to sing.

#9 Nightingale Sings for the Emperor

It was so beautiful that tears streamed out of the Emperor's eyes, rolled down his cheeks, and dripped on his robe.

Set B# E#

"This is so wonderful," said the Emperor. "You shall have one of my royal gold slippers to hang about your neck as a reward!"

"I am honored, Your Highness," said the bird, "but to see tears in your eyes is a rich reward, and more than enough."

Well, everyone at court was so impressed with the Nightingale! He became the darling of all the nobles, as well as the talk of the town. Ah! But now the Nightingale had to stay at court. He was kept in a royal cage, and taken outside twice a day, and once at night. And on these outings he was attended by twelve servants, each one holding a ribbon that was tied to his leg.

One day a package was brought to the Emperor. On it was written the word "Nightingale."

"This must be another book about our famous bird," said the Emperor. But it was not a book. Inside there was a box, and in that box was a little mechanical bird, looking much like the real Nightingale, except that it was gold, set with diamonds, rubies, and sapphires. There was a note tied to its beak, which read,

"The Emperor of Japan sends this poor nightingale in honor of the Emperor of China's real Nightingale."

#10A

The Emperor wound up the bird. (ratchet)

Its little gold tail started to wag, it began to play a melody, one that was something like one of the melodies that the real bird sang!

#10 The Mechanical Bird

piccolo
♩ = 126

The Emperor was impressed. "Very good," he said. The nobles were really impressed, especially at the jewels which flashed as the bird's tail wagged.

"Oh, how lovely! Charming! Fabulous!"—they "oohed," and "aahed"—they went on and on! Then one of them said, "The two birds must sing with each other! How grand that will be!" "Yes, yes!" they all cried, "Let's hear a duet!" So the Nightingale was brought out from his cage, and the two birds had to try a duet.

#11 The Two Birds

flute *improvise freely based on Nightingale melody*

They looked around. It was gone! While they had been busy watching the artificial bird, the real Nightingale had flown off! Back to its own green woods, with no ties to its legs, and no cage!

#13 Freedom

flute
♩ = 138

It didn't sound very good—the real Nightingale always did things new each time, and the artificial bird could only repeat and repeat, without listening or responding. But the royal music master said, "The new Nightingale is doing everything perfectly, every time."

So all the courtiers said, "Well, let's hear the new Nightingale again—it's better without the other one."

#12A

And so they wound it up...

...and played it again.

#12B The Mechanical Bird Sequence

piccolo

They had the mechanical bird play over...

#12C

...and over...

...and over...

...dozens of times! They couldn't take their eyes off those gems that glittered and sparkled as it moved. They would have heard it even more, but the Emperor finally said, "Wait, that's enough! Let's give the real Nightingale a turn now."

Set B ♯, E ♯

The courtiers were in an uproar! "What an ungrateful creature!" "How could it do such a thing!" "Imagine! To fly away from the Emperor so rudely!" "How shocking!" They all clucked their tongues and shook their heads. "Well, anyway, we have the best bird!" they said.

#17A

So they wound up the bird again...

...and listened once more.

#14B The Mechanical Bird Again

piccolo

Now the mechanical bird was the great sensation. Most of the courtiers even preferred it to the real one, as it was so much prettier to look at. Besides, it could play and play without getting tired, and it didn't need to be taken out or fed.

Even the music master said, "Oh, this bird is much better! The other one is so unpredictable! But with this bird, you know just what you will get, and perfect every time!"

So the artificial Nightingale was presented to the public with much ceremony.

#14C Presentation

Ride cymbal

Everyone said, "Oh," and "Ah!" "How beautiful it looks! What amazing jewels!"—and of course they applauded after it played.

Set B ♯, E ♯

But the little kitchen maid and all the fishermen who knew the real one well said, "It's nice.... but there is something missing, somehow. I can't exactly put words to it."

The Emperor announced "The real bird will never be allowed back in court!
It is banished from the kingdom!"

#15 Banished

♩ = 80 flute

Musical score for #15 Banished, featuring piano accompaniment and flute parts with dynamic markings like *rit.*

One evening, the Emperor was lying in bed, listening to the mechanical bird. Suddenly, he heard :

"What! Can this be? No more music?!" He picked up the bird, shook it and tapped it, but it wouldn't play. "Courtier! Send for my special physicians!"

The courtier sent for the royal physicians. They all rushed over right away. They looked at the bird, and shook it, and tapped it, but they had no idea what to do to get it to play again. Finally one of them said, "Er... um... Perhaps Your Highness should send for the royal watchmaker?" (start underscore)

#16A *vibraslap* ... and the bird stopped!

#16B (underscore) So the royal watchmaker was sent for.

#16B Watchmaker

♩ = 84

Musical score for #16B Watchmaker, featuring piano accompaniment and woodblock parts.

After much adjusting, examining, poking and fussing, the royal watchmaker was able to get the bird to play again.

Then he said, "But Your Highness, must be very careful from now on to only play the music when it is absolutely necessary. The mechanism is quite worn out. If the bird stops again, I do not think it will ever be able to start again."

Keep B
Set A

So now the mechanical bird was only brought out to play once a year. Everyone felt this was a great loss!

#17A Time passed... ..many years. And it happened that the Emperor became ill.

#17B Almost Dead

♩ = 66 Drum

Musical score for #17B Almost Dead, featuring piano accompaniment and drum parts with lyrics: "So ill, in fact, that everyone was sure he could not live. So sure, in fact, that a new Emperor had already been chosen. They were all sure the Emperor was very close to Death. So close, in fact, most of the court thought he was already dead."

The Emperor lay pale and weak in his big bed, not moving, his eyes closed. The moon shone in through the window. The artificial bird sat on its fancy cushion nearby.

#17C He could hardly breathe; he felt such a weight on him. He opened his eyes a little, and what did he see? Why, Death was sitting right there on his chest, holding the Emperor's Golden Sword, holding the Emperor's Imperial Banner, and wearing the Emperor's Great Crown!

From amongst the folds of the velvet bed-curtains, (begin underscore)

#18 Terrified Underscore

Sandlocks -slow ad lib, continuously with random changes of speed

Musical score for #18 Terrified Underscore, featuring piano accompaniment with lyrics: "innumerable little faces peered out, some lovely, some hideous, and all kinds in between. These were all the Emperor's deeds--the good, the not-so-good, and the ordinary--"

--an avalanche whispering memories, peering at him through millions of eyes.

Musical score for #18 Terrified Underscore, featuring piano accompaniment with lyrics: "It was unbearable. He was very frightened. In fact, he was terrified!"

"Music! I don't want to hear all this! Music, I must have music!" The Emperor croaked as loudly as he could. But no one heard him.

He turned to the artificial bird in desperation. "Sing, little bird, sing! Haven't I given you every honor? Sing, I say!" But there was no one there to wind it up, and the Emperor was too weak to do it himself.

Death kept staring at the Emperor, nodding to everything the voices were saying.

Suddenly!

#19A The Nightingale and Death Sequence

Musical score for #19A The Nightingale and Death Sequence, featuring piano accompaniment and piccolo parts with lyrics: "The living Nightingale! It had heard that the Emperor was ill, and had come to help comfort him and bring him hope. And as he sang, a miraculous thing happened. The whispering voices grew fainter and fainter. Finally they died away completely."

#19B

tempo

Musical score for #19B, featuring piano accompaniment with lyrics: "And then, the most unexpected thing of all: Death turned away from the Emperor and looked right at the bird! So the Nightingale stopped singing."

Musical score for #19B, featuring piano accompaniment with lyrics: "Sing more, little bird," said Death. "Oh...Oh...Only if you give back the Emperor's Golden Sword," said the bird. "It'd a deal!" said Death, and he returned the sword.

The Emperor's blood coursed through his veins with new energy, and the color began to come back into his cheeks! The Nightingale sang again.

#19C And he stopped again.

Musical score for #19C, featuring piano accompaniment with lyrics: "Death said, "Sing more!" "Only if you give me the Emperor's Imperial Banner," said the bird.

"A worthy trade, a worthy trade," answered Death, and he handed over the banner. So the bird sang again.

#19D And when he stopped, Death pleaded, "Don't stop, don't stop!"

"Only if you give me the Emperor's Great Crown," replied the bird.

"Of course, of course, just keep on singing!" said Death, and he gave back the crown.

And now that they had the treasures back from Death, the bird sang again--but this time, a very different song.

(music vamp starts) He sang about quiet church yards, the bells ringing in the steeples, and the roses over the graves.

#20 The Churchyard

flute

vamp

Death became so homesick
for his own garden that he went
up and out the window
in a cold grey mist!

*Ch, F#
Eb, Ab (B#)*

"Thank you, thank you!" said the Emperor, "You heavenly little bird! I treated you badly by banishing you! But now you have saved my life! How can I ever repay you?"

"You have already given me the greatest gift possible—you are alive! But now, rest. I will sing to help you regain your strength while you sleep." So the Emperor slept.

#21A The Emperor Heals

flute solo

wind chimes

When he awoke, he was refreshed and well!

The Emperor got up out of bed and put on his imperial robes. "Dear Nightingale! You must stay here with me always!" he said. "You can sing whenever you like, and I will break the other bird into a thousand pieces!"

Set all ♩ plus B ♯

"Oh, no! Don't do that!" cried the bird, "That little bird did the best it could. Keep it. Your Highness, I cannot build my nest here in the palace—I must live free! But I will come in the evenings and sing to you. I will sing about everything in your kingdom—the good, the bad, the sad, the happy, the seen, and the unseen. However, you must promise me one thing."

"Anything!" said the Emperor. And he held his Golden Sword up over his heart.

"Do not let anyone know that you have a little bird who tells you everything. Our friendship needs to be private—away from all the glamour of the court. This will be for the best. Goodbye for now!"

#21B (several glisses ad lib) δ^{ma}

And the Nightingale flew off.

Meanwhile, the Gentleman-in-Waiting was speaking to the servants who had gathered to tend to the final needs of their poor Emperor, who they thought to be dead.

The Gentleman said
"Now treat the body with great care
We mustn't leave him lying there.
It's time to say our last goodbye.
Such a shame he had to die!"

#22A Small drum repeat as needed

But when they opened the door to the bedchamber, there he stood, alive and healthy!

"Good morning!" the Emperor said.

#22B Finale

$\text{♩} = 144$

And with the
Nightingale's help,
...he ruled wisely...
...and well...
...for many
more years.

*C Ma. Gliss
(F#, B#)*