

## The Banshee

### *Explanation of Symbols*

"The Banshee" is played on the open strings of the piano, the player standing at the crook. Another person must sit at the keyboard and hold down the damper pedal throughout the composition. The whole work should be played an octave lower than written.

R. H. stands for "right hand." L. H. stands for "left hand." Different ways of playing the strings are indicated by a letter over each tone, as follows:

- (A) indicates a sweep with the flesh of the finger from the lowest string up to the note given.
- (B) sweep lengthwise along the string of the note given with flesh of finger.
- (C) sweep up and back from lowest A to highest B-flat given in this composition.
- (D) pluck string with flesh of finger, where written, instead of octave lower.
- (E) sweep along three notes together, in the same manner as (B).
- (F) sweep in the manner of (B) but with the back of finger-nail instead of flesh.
- (G) when the finger is half way along the string in the manner of (F), start a sweep along the same string with the flesh of the other finger, thus partly damping the sound.
- (H) sweep back and forth in the manner of (C), but start at the same time from both above and below, crossing the sweep in the middle.
- (I) sweep along five notes, in the manner of (B).
- (J) same as (I) but with back of finger-nails instead of flesh of finger.
- (K) sweep along in manner of (J) with nails of both hands together, taking in all notes between the two outer limits given.
- (L) sweep in manner of (C) with flat of hand instead of single finger.

# 3. The Banshee

Henry Cowell  
(1925)

Tempo Rubato

Musical staff 1: Bass clef, 2/2 time signature. Features a wavy line with notes B and A. Circled letters B and A are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *pp* and *rit.*

Musical staff 2: Bass clef. Features a wavy line with notes B, C, D, E, and A. Circled letters B, C, D, E, and A are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *p* and *cresc.*

Musical staff 3: Bass clef. Features a wavy line with notes E, F, G, and A. Circled letters E, F, G, and A are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *f* and *a tempo*.

Musical staff 4: Bass clef. Features a wavy line with notes F, G, H, D, and I. Circled letters F, G, H, D, and I are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *mf*.

Musical staff 5: Bass clef. Features a wavy line with notes I, J, K, and A. Circled letters I, J, K, and A are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *ff* and *dim. e*.

Musical staff 6: Bass clef. Features a wavy line with notes K, L, D, and E. Circled letters K, L, D, and E are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *mp* and *rit. molto*.

Musical staff 7: Bass clef. Features a wavy line with notes E and A. Circled letters E and A are placed above and below the staff. Dynamics include *p* and *ppp*.

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# 4. Aeolian Harp

## Explanation of Symbols

All of the notes of the "Aeolian Harp" should be pressed down on the keys, without sounding, at the same time being played on the open strings of the piano with the other hand.

sw. indicates that the strings should be swept from the lowest to the highest note of the chord given, or if the arpeggio mark is given with a downward arrow, from the top to the bottom note of the chord.

pizz. indicates the string is to be plucked. Both sweeps and plucks are made with the flesh of the finger unless otherwise indicated.

"inside" indicates that the notes are to be played near the center of the string, inside the steel bar which runs parallel to the keyboard across the strings.

"outside" indicates that the notes are to be played outside this bar, near the tuning pegs.

Except where indicated, the pedal must NEVER BE DOWN while the strings are being swept; as soon as the sweep is made, the pedal should be put down, and held until the time is ready to begin a new sweep, when it must be released.

### Tempo Rubato

Henry Cowell  
(1923)

*sw.*  
*inside*  
*p*

*pizz.*  
*outside*  
*mf*  
*Ped.* \* *B*  
*sw.*

*pizz.*  
*Ped.* \* *X*

*sw.*  
*ff*  
*(with back of thumb nail)*

*(with flesh of finger)*  
*pizz.*  
*rit.*  
*sw.*  
*inside*  
*p a tempo*  
*Ped.* \* *A*

*pizz.*  
*rit.*  
*a tempo*  
*rit.*  
*Ped.* \*