

Aeolian Harp

Henry Cowell

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 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 the 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

The musical score consists of six staves of music, each with specific performance instructions and dynamics:

- Staff 1:** Treble clef, 2/4 time. Starts with a sweep (*sw.*) of a chord marked *inside* and *p* (piano). The chord is a D minor triad (D, F, A).
- Staff 2:** Treble clef. Starts with a sweep of a chord marked *inside* and *p*. At measure 5, there is a pluck (*pizz.*) of a note marked *outside*. The piece ends with a sweep of a chord marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).
- Staff 3:** Treble clef. Starts with a sweep of a chord marked *inside* and *p*. At measure 9, there is a pluck (*pizz.*) of a note marked *outside*. The piece ends with a sweep of a chord marked *mf*.
- Staff 4:** Treble clef. Starts with a sweep of a chord marked *inside* and *p*. At measure 13, there is a sweep (*sw.*) of a chord marked *ff* (fortissimo), with the instruction "(with back of thumb nail)".
- Staff 5:** Treble clef. Starts with a sweep of a chord marked *inside* and *p*. At measure 17, there is a pluck (*pizz.*) of a note marked *rit.* (ritardando). The piece ends with a sweep of a chord marked *inside* and *p a tempo* (piano, a tempo).
- Staff 6:** Treble clef. Starts with a sweep of a chord marked *inside* and *p*. At measure 22, there is a pluck (*pizz.*) of a note marked *a tempo* and *rit.* (ritardando). The piece ends with a sweep of a chord marked *mf*.