I have long wanted to write some piano pieces inspired by jazz and blues for the young of all ages. For jazz to me is a form of joy, an expression of our zest for life and our need to communicate with other people. Children have this gift naturally and unselfconsciously, and wise adults keep enough of it in their systems to renew their youth.

The jazz tradition has become our twentieth century folklore, with the sharp humour, the simple warmth and the pithy vitality of the true American people. Blues are the obverse of the coin. By singing the blues we release the tensions of machine made living, the sorrows of great cities, the threats to personal identity. In these books the blues are not so very sad.

Paradoxically, composing simply for the easier grades is remarkably complicated if one is to achieve real music and at the same time suit the harmony and rhythmic subtlety to the ability of the pianist, developing the technical prowess required through each successive volume. You have to suggest, where the more accomplished jazz pianist would elaborate or compulsively invent. The main thing, as in all composing, is to achieve the nucleus of a true and vital idea. This is rather like prospecting for diamond bearing rock, you must search very widely and reject so much. Once you have found your diamond, it must be cut and polished so that it will sparkle with different lights from different angles, and give pleasure even when you have looked at it a thousand times. This should always be the composer’s ideal, whether in writing a symphony or a simple jazz piece for piano.

I hope that budding pianists will enjoy expressing the varying moods of these pieces, excercising their musical imagination in sharp contrasts of idea. Perhaps other members of the family will join in, spontaneously improvising their own percussion or vocal counterpoint as the mood takes them, as the creators of jazz did in the old days, and as my small daughter did while I was writing these pieces. That is why they are dedicated to her.
DEDICATED TO MY DAUGHTER

JAZZ
and
BLUES
no.3
by
Philip Cannon
(titles by JACQUELINE LAIDLAW)

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THE KID GLOVE GLIDE

Suave and slinky

By

PHILIP CANNON

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DON'T ARGUE!

By

PHILIP CANNON

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HA-HA-HA CHIHUAHUA!

By

PHILIP CANNON

A lilting rumba light and fairly fast poco

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GHOULS' BOOGIE

By
PHILIP CANNON

Spooky but fast

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DOLPHIN LULLABY

By
PHILIP CANNON

Sea dreamy

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DOGGONE BLUES

By
PHILIP CANNON

Medium blues tempo - cussedly enjoy your bad humor!
David Carr Glover
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