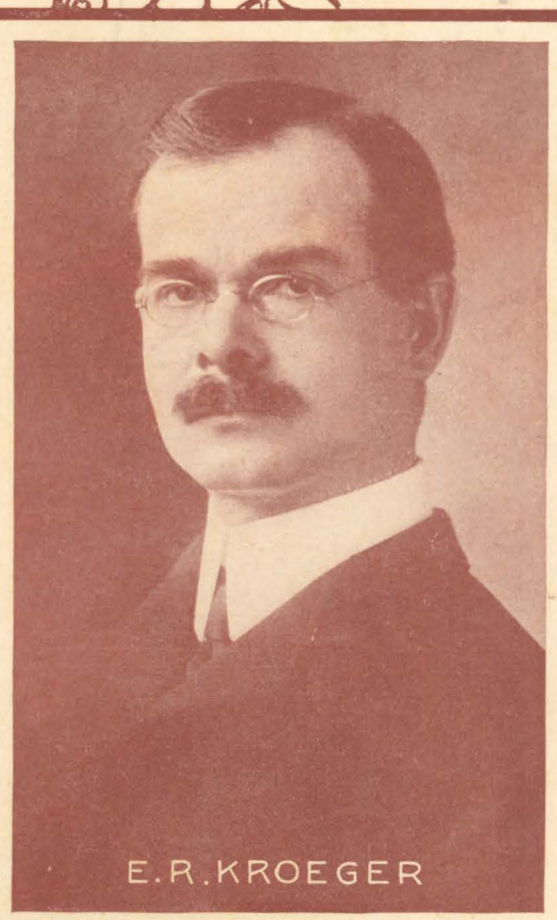
THE HUMMING BIRD



E. R. KROEGER

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Columbian Conservatory of Music

THE HUMMING BIRD

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH—ERNEST R. KROEGER.

Born at St. Louis, Missouri, August 10, 1862.

ERNEST R. KROEGER was born in St. Louis, Missouri, where he now resides. His activity embraces the field of pianoforte and organ playing, composition, conducting, lecturing, and writing upon musical topics. In an article referring to his work as a pianist the New York Musical Courier said: "In his recitals during the past five years, Mr Kroeger has played upward of three hundred standard compositions from memory. His repertory is one of the most extensive of any pianist before the public, and includes all schools of piano composition.

During his career, he has been President of the Music Teachers' National Association, President of the Missouri State Music Teachers' Association, Instrumental Adjudicator of the Annual Kansas Music Festival, Adjudicator of the Welsh Eisteddfod at Canton, Ohio, in 1906; he is a founder-member of the American Guild of Organists; is Director of the Kroeger School of Music, and also of the College of Music at the Forest Park University for Women; was for ten years Conductor of the Morning Choral (Ladies') Club, is now conductor of the Amphion Club (male chorus), and is Organist at the Church of the Messiah (Unitarian) at St. Louis. He was appointed "Master of Programs" on the Bureau of Music of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, held in 1904. In recognition of his services in this capacity the Exposition Company gave him a Commemorative Diploma and a Gold Medal, and the French Government elected him an Officer of the Academy. He was also chairman of Group Jury 21, Department of Liberal Arts, which examined musical instruments, etc.

His compositions have been extensively published in this country and in Europe, and have been considered as typical of some of the best work done by American composers.

Among his most important published works are "The Rivulet," Opus 3; "Four Humoreskes," opus 9; "Gondoliera," opus 12, No. 1; "Dance of the Elves," opus 17; "Serenade," opus 23, No. 1; "Arabesque," opus 23, No. 3; "Fantasie Polonaise," opus 26; "12 Concert Etudes," opus 30; "Suite in F minor," opus 33; "Sonata in F sharp minor," for Violin and Piano, opus 32; "Egeria," opus 35; "Four Sonnets," opus 36; "In Fairyland," 5 pieces for piano, opus 39; "Sonata in D flat," for piano, opus 40; "Scherzo," for Piano, opus 45; "Three Mythological Scenes," opus 46; "Theme and Variations," op. 54; "Moods," opus 60; 10 "American Character Sketches," opus 53; and many songs and other vocal compositions; organ pieces, etc.

Mr. Kroeger has also written several "Symphonic Overtures" for orchestra, besides other orchestral and concerted work. His suite "Lalla Rookh" made a great success at the St. Louis World's Fair, and has since been played by the Thomas, Damrosch and Boston Festival Orchestras.

THE POETIC IDEA. Quite a number of composers have named their compositions after the different species of birds; Liszt's "Nightingale"; Schuman's, "The Bird as Prophet;" Saint-Saens, "The Swan," and others.

Mr. Kroeger has given a good imitation of "The Humming Bird." It is quite characteristic, and one can imagine the light winged bird, flying rapidly, producing a humming sound, as it lights here and there, sipping sweets from the fragrant flowers.

This composition is original in both form and contents. The varied harmonies are well contrasted, while the transition from A flat major to E major is both agreeable and interesting.

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The student will be well repaid by learning this piece from memory and adding it to his repertoire.

FORM-ANALYSIS. There are two Divisions to this work, and it is in the simple or composite song-form.

FIRST DIVISION. (First part; 8 measures.
(Second part; 24 measures.

SECOND DIVISION. (First part; 8 measures.
(Second part; 8 measures.
(Third part; 8 measures like the First part.

THIRD DIVISION. (The entire First Division with a Coda of 8 measures.

TEMPO. The tempo is marked allegro ♩=96, which is a rapid movement, ninety-six half notes to one beat of the metronome. This being but two accents in each measure, falling on the first and third beats. While marked 4/4, it is really in 2/2 time; however, it is better to count the four at first until the desired speed is attained. In the second part the term "un poco meno mosso" is used, which means, that this is not to be played so fast, as the preceding movement. Tempo Primo is to return to the original tempo. There are no "ritards" introduced, so the piece moves along at a steady pace, the ending being as fast as any of the other measures.

TECHNIC. There are no ornaments in this composition, so one should observe the slurs, and general figuration of the runs and chords. The first division is in the style of an Etude, and is excellent practice, the difficulties to be overcome are those of finger dexterity and evenness of tone-quality. In the second division a melody is to be sung, and its form is determined by the slurs. Each slur represents a sentence, so raise the hand at the beginning of each one, and then take the hands from the keys at the end, making a slight pause between them. Observe the Double Sharps, and Accidentals closely.

TOUCH. A light leggerio touch should be used in the scale passages. Touch by stroke in the Chords, and a good sustained legato in the melody.

PEDALS. The Pedals have been carefully marked by the author. In the softer (dolce) passages the soft Pedal may be used to advantage.

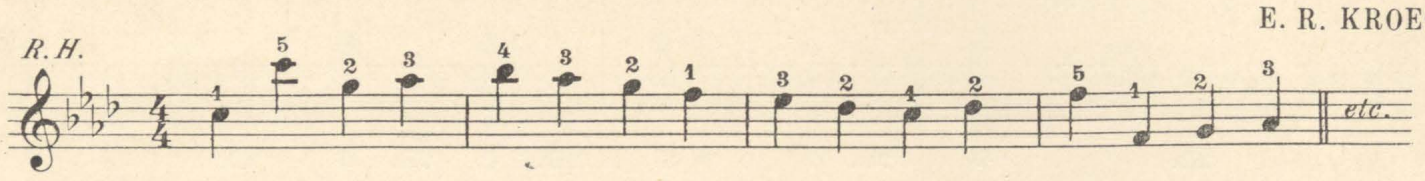
MEMORIZING. Note the Form-Analysis closely, and there will be no trouble in memorizing this composition.

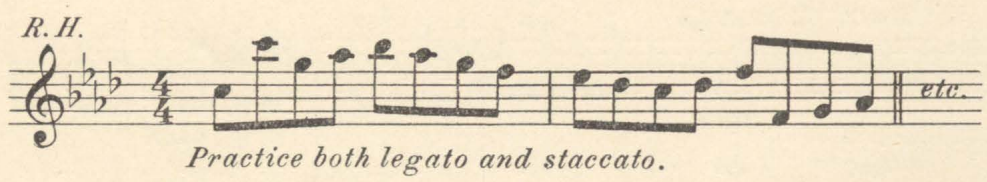
SUGGESTIONS. One should be careful not to make this delightful piece too mechanical; avoid playing it too fast, so that the runs become blurred, and the beauties in the Melody become lost. It has a sub-title, "Impromptu," which allows the performer considerable latitude in the interpretation. Spontaneity and freshness, with clearness, will best represent the composer, as these are the qualifications to be desired.

TECHNIC TO

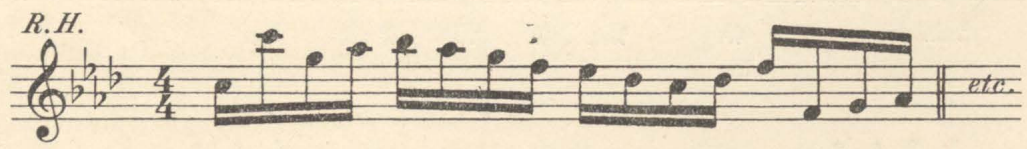
"THE HUMMING BIRD"

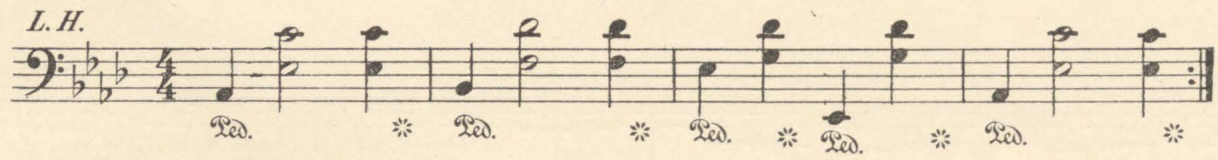
E. R. KROEGER.

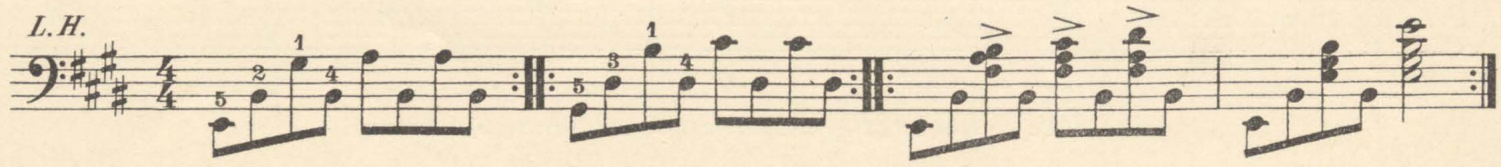




Practice both legato and staccato.







THE HUMMING BIRD

IMPROMPTU
for the pianoforte.

E. R. KROEGER.

Allegro. ♩ - 96.

mf legato sempre

cresc.

dim.

mp

mf

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Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲

8 *sf*

Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲

8 *mf*

Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲

8 *dim.* *pp*

Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲ Ped. ✲

un poco meno mosso.

p cantabile.

mp dolce.

Tempo primo.

6

mf legato sempre

cresc.

dim.

mp

sf

mf

p