

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 for "Aeolian Harp" is written in 2/4 time and consists of six staves. The notation includes chords and single notes, with various performance instructions and dynamic markings.

Staff 1 (Measures 1-4): Starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The first measure has a "sw." (sweep) instruction above a chord and an "inside" instruction below it, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The subsequent measures contain chords.

Staff 2 (Measures 5-8): Continues with chords. Measure 6 has a "pizz." (pizzicato) instruction above a note and an "outside" instruction below it. Measure 8 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking.

Staff 3 (Measures 9-12): Continues with chords. Measure 12 has a "pizz." instruction above a note.

Staff 4 (Measures 13-16): Measure 13 has a "(with back of thumb nail)" instruction above it. Measure 14 has a "sw." instruction above a chord and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking below it.

Staff 5 (Measures 17-21): Measure 17 has a "(with flesh of finger)" instruction above it. Measure 18 has a "pizz." instruction above a note. Measure 19 has a "rit." (ritardando) instruction below it. Measure 20 has a "sw." instruction above a chord, an "inside" instruction below it, and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. Measure 21 has an "a tempo" instruction below it.

Staff 6 (Measures 22-25): Continues with chords. Measure 24 has a "pizz." instruction above a note. Measure 25 has a "rit." instruction below it and an "a tempo" instruction below it.

The score includes various musical symbols such as treble clefs, key signatures, dynamics (*p*, *mf*, *ff*), articulation (*pizz.*), and performance instructions (*sw.*, *inside*, *outside*, *rit.*, *a tempo*).

Tempo Rubato

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