



A Father's Love for His Daughter: Introducing Alicia's Piano Books by Ananda Sukarlan

Ananda Sukarlan

- B. 1960
- Indonesian composer and pianist
- First Indonesian in the *2000 Outstanding Musicians of the 20th Century*
- Work commissioned and performed by the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM)

Compositional Styles

- Traditional and avant-garde
- Integrates Western and non-Western musical elements
- Utilization of Western forms

Solo Piano Works

- 5 etudes
- 13 pieces from *Just a Minute!* for the left hand alone
- 24 *Rapsodia Nusantara* (Archipelago Rhapsody)
- 183 pieces in *Alicia's Piano Books*

Alicia's Piano Books

- A set of six books
- 183 piano pieces
- Ranging from elementary to early advanced levels
- Initially written for Alicia Pirena, Sukarlan's daughter
- Later the set was expanded and dedicated to other young musicians

Distinctive Objectives

- Books 1 and 2: Lyrical music
- Book 3: Includes ensemble music
- Book 4: Collection of short pieces
- Book 5: Dedicated to friends
- Book 6: Devoted to children who have physical disabilities

Where to Purchase

- <http://anandasukarlancenter.com/>

Alicia's First Piano Book

Falling in Love

- Early intermediate level
- Bi-rhythmic
- Left hands plays in 6/8 while right hand plays in 3/4
- Ends with *pelog* (Do Ra Me Se So Le Te) – a heptatonic tuning employed for Javanese gamelan

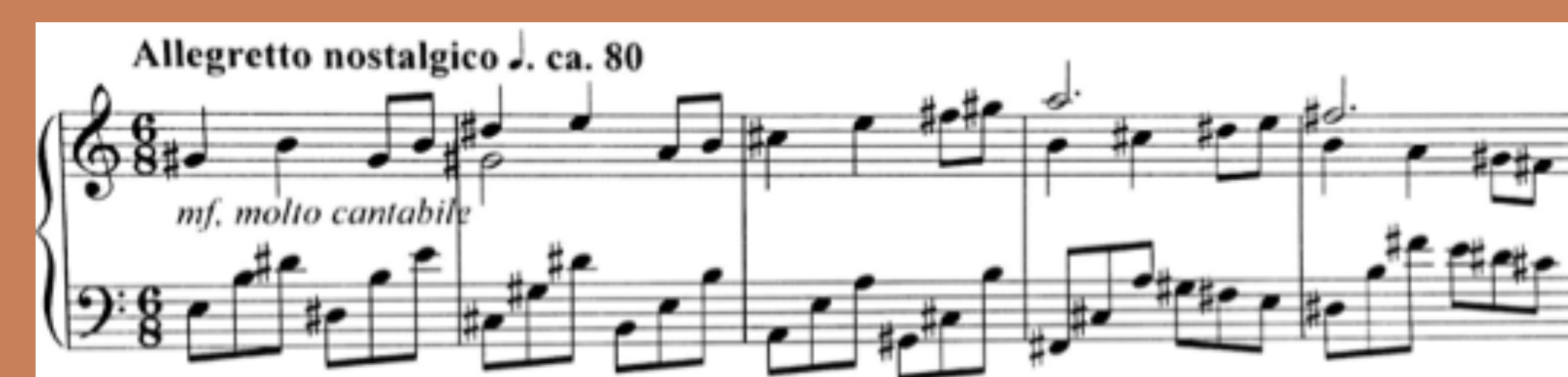


Figure 1: "Falling in Love," mm. 1-5, from Ananda Sukarlan's *Alicia's First Piano Book*.

Alicia's Second Piano Book

1 Minute for Japan

- Late elementary level
- For the left hand alone
- Composed after watching the news about the terrible impact of Japanese earthquake and tsunami in 2011
- Constructed with E Japanese Mode (Do Ra Me So La) and ends surprisingly with E Dorian Mode (Do Re Me Fa So La Te)

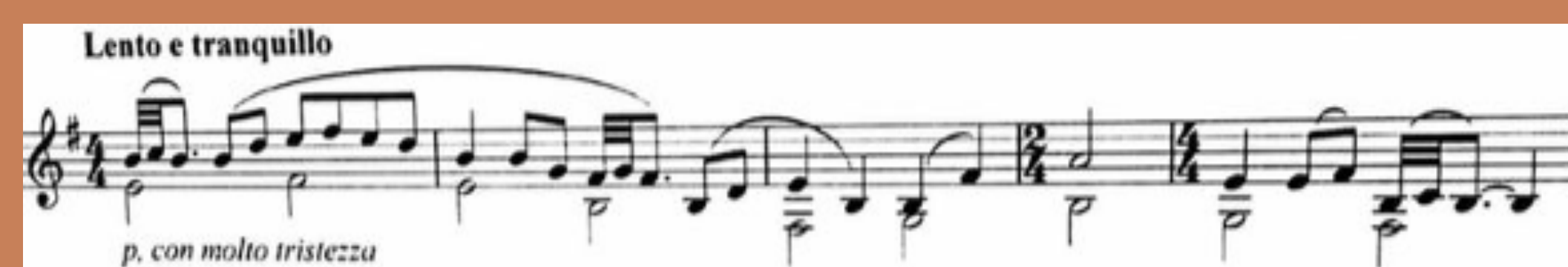


Figure 2: "1 Minute for Japan," mm. 1-5, from Ananda Sukarlan's *Alicia's Second Piano Book*.

Alicia's Third Piano Book

Differences Unite

- Late intermediate level
- Dedicated to Sukarlan's friends, Nia and Chris
- Melody swaps between hands, and polyrhythms of 3 and 2 interchanges on every beat
- Ends with both hands playing equally important melodies



Figure 3: "Difference Unite," mm. 1-6, from Ananda Sukarlan's *Alicia's Third Piano Book*.

Alicia's Fourth Piano Book

Call Me But Love...

- Early advanced level
- Inspiration came from Alicia when the father and the daughter were analyzing the scene in Act 2 of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
- Alternates between slow and fast theme
- Includes metric modulation and rhythmic complexity such as 2 against 3, 2 against 5, and 3 against 4



Figure 4: "Calling Me But Love...," mm. 23-25, from Ananda Sukarlan's *Alicia's Fourth Piano Book*.

Alicia's Fifth Piano Book

12 + 1 is a Lucky Number

- Early intermediate level
- ABA form
- Written for a friend, Vivienne, on her 13th birthday
- The letters V-I-V-I-E-N-N-E are included in the score and is meant to enhance the playing of eighth notes which interchange between both hands



Figure 5: "12 + 1 is a Lucky Number," mm. 7-10, from Ananda Sukarlan's *Alicia's Fifth Piano Book*.

Alicia's Sixth Piano Book

Variations of Ibu Sud's "Kupu-Kupu Yang Lucu"

- Early advanced level
- Based on a famous Indonesian children's song composed by Ibu Sud (1908-93)
- The title means "a funny butterfly" in the Indonesian language
- A theme with five variations
- The action of the butterfly is mimicked through the manipulated of tremolos, double thirds and sixths, uninterrupted flow of triplets, march-like rhythms, and double octaves



Figure 6: "Variations of Ibu Sud's 'Kupu-Kupu Yang Lucu,'" mm. 1-7, from Ananda Sukarlan's *Alicia's Sixth Piano Book*.