



# **The LSMD Centre for Teaching**

**Grade 5 – Grade 6**

**Piano Syllabus**

**Piano Teacher Handbook and Errata**

The Leinster School of Music & Drama  
Griffith College Dublin, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Ireland

Website: [lsmd.ie](http://lsmd.ie)



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# About The LSMD Centre for Teaching

The Leinster School of Music & Drama continues to provide excellence in music and drama education, and training. Our mission is to promote the arts in Ireland and encourage continued professional development for teachers and learners.

Through music and drama training courses, workshops and examinations we aim to provide accessible tuition and teacher training.

The LSMD Centre for Teaching provides additional resources and support for music and drama teacher. To find out more about what we do and how we can help contact:

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# Piano Grade Exam Marking Scheme

<b>SCHEDULE OF MAXIMUM MARKS</b>	
<b>Technical Studies</b>	15
<b>Sight Reading &amp; Comprehension</b>	15
<b>Aural Observation</b>	10
<b>Piece 1</b>	20
<b>Piece 2</b>	20
<b>Piece 3</b>	20

The grade examinations are marked out of 100. Candidates must secure:-

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>MARK</b>
<b>First Class Honours</b>	87 - 100
<b>Honours</b>	80 - 86
<b>Merit</b>	75 – 79
<b>Pass</b>	65 - 74

**Depending on grade a medal will be awarded to candidates who achieve a mark of 95 or over.**

All original material, including LSMD piano books must accompany candidates in the exam room, photocopies will not be permitted without original material present in the exam room.

## Notes

**The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus**

**Grade 5**

## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

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### Technical Studies

**15 Marks**

*All scales and arpeggios to be prepared hands together at the examiner's choice. All scales and arpeggios are to be played legato and from memory. Suggested metronome mark - Scales: crotchet = 72 and Arpeggios: crotchet = 60*

<b>Similar Motion</b>	Major: G, D, B, F sharp and C sharp	Three Octaves
	Harmonic Minor: G, D, B, F sharp and C sharp	Three Octaves
	Melodic Minor: A, E and D	Three Octaves
<b>Contrary Motion</b>	Major: F sharp, A flat and B flat	One Octave
	Harmonic Minor: F sharp, A flat and B flat	
<b>Arpeggios</b>	Major: G, D, B, F sharp and C sharp	Three Octaves
	Minor: A, E, D, G, D, B, F sharp and C sharp	Three Octaves
<b>Chromatic</b>	<i>Beginning on any note</i>	Three Octaves

## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

### Sight Reading and Comprehension

**15 Marks**

*This section comprises of three sections (sight reading, theory and comprehension).*

#### Sight Reading

A short passage of moderate difficulty, hands together in the major and minor keys of:

Major Key: C, G, D, A, F, B flat or E flat

Minor Key: A, E, B, F sharp, D, G or C

The musical score is for a piece titled "No. 1" in 2/4 time, marked "Con moto". It consists of two systems of music. The first system, starting at measure 150, features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The treble staff begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures. The bass staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A crescendo (*cresc*) marking is placed over the treble staff in the third measure, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic is indicated in the fourth measure. The second system, starting at measure 158, continues the melodic line in the treble staff and the rhythmic pattern in the bass staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a piano-piano (*pp*) dynamic marking in the treble staff.



## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

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168 No. 2 Smoothly

179

### Theory

*The examiner will ask questions in relation to any of the candidates prepared pieces.*

Name and Explain: As previous grades including dynamics, articulation, mood, tonality, performance directions and style.

Identify: Major and minor chords in root position, first inversion and second inversion.

Identify: Major, Perfect and minor intervals (harmonic and melodic).

Identify: Perfect and Imperfect cadences in prepared pieces.

### Comprehension

Describe: Background information about the composers of their prepared pieces at the request of the examiner. (*i.e. date of birth, birthplace, types of compositions/works*).

## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

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### Aural Observation

**10 Marks**

*The aural observation comprises of two sections (observation and memory)*

### Observation

To listen to a short piece played once by the examiner and to comment on the tonality of the piece, variations of dynamics, tempo changes and articulations.

208 **No. 1 Allegro**

*mf ben marcato*

212

## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

Musical score for piano, measures 223-228. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. Measure 223 starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The melody in the right hand consists of quarter notes: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. The bass line consists of quarter notes: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. Measure 224 continues the melody: A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat, A. The bass line continues: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. Measure 225 continues the melody: G, F, E, D, C, B-flat, A, G. The bass line continues: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. Measure 226 continues the melody: F, E, D, C, B-flat, A, G, F. The bass line continues: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. Measure 227 continues the melody: E, D, C, B-flat, A, G, F, E. The bass line continues: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. Measure 228 continues the melody: D, C, B-flat, A, G, F, E, D. The bass line continues: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. The score ends with three dots (⋮).

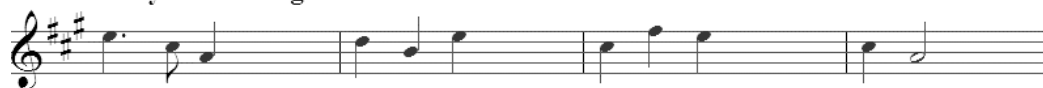
To recognise a rhythmic or melodic change in a four bar melody in a major or minor key played twice by the examiner (*i.e. did the change occur in the first or second bar*). The change will be made in the second playing.

# The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

No. 1



Rhythmic change



Melodic change



# The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

No. 2



Rhythmic change



Melodic change



## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

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### Memory

Clap back from memory the rhythm of a short melody in simple or compound time, and state the time signature as either simple duple, simple triple, simple quadruple or compound duple. The passage will be played 3 times by the examiner and the pulse will be given at the beginning of the piece.

1

2

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff, labeled '1', is in 6/8 time and contains a melody of eighth notes and quarter notes. The second staff, labeled '2', is in 4/4 time and contains a melody of quarter notes and eighth notes.

Having identified the time signature the candidate will be asked to identify note values within one of the bars.

## The LSMD Grade 5 Piano Syllabus

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### **Performance**

*To perform three pieces – There is a maximum of 20 marks per piece - See following page for details.*

**60 Marks**

**\*Schedule of Maximum Marks Awards for Grade 5 Examination: 100 Marks**

**\*Approximate Timing for Grade 5 Practical Exam: 30 minutes**

## Grade 5 Exam Pieces

Candidates must choose **at least two pieces from the following list**. The third piece may be chosen from the pieces below or be of the candidates own choice of equal standard:

	Name of Piece	Book
1	<i>Hoedown</i>	More Rhythm and Rag (Haughton, Alan, ABRSM Publication)
2	<i>Bread and Butter</i>	More Rhythm and Rag (Haughton, Alan, ABRSM Publication)
3	<i>A Brief Tango</i>	Micro Jazz, Level 5, Collection 3 ( Publication)
4	<i>Hungarian Stomp</i>	Micro Jazz, Level 5, Collection 3 ( Publication)
5	<i>Berceuse for Young Pianists (Boydell)</i>	Soundbites: Album of Pieces for Young Pianists (The Contemporary Music Centre)
6	<i>5<sup>th</sup> January 1981 (Hayes)</i>	Soundbites: Album of Pieces for Young Pianists (The Contemporary Music Centre)
7	<i>Prelude in C (Purcell)</i>	Hours with the Masters, Book 4 (Bosworth Publications)
8	<i>2 Part Intervention No. 4 (Bach)</i>	Hours with the Masters, Book 4 (Bosworth Publications)
10	<i>No 12 in B minor</i>	Heller, 25 Studies Op.47 (Banks Music Publications)
11	<i>No 13 in B Flat Major</i>	Heller, 25 Studies Op.47 (Banks Music Publications)
12	<i>No 19 in C Major</i>	Heller, 25 Studies Op.47 (Banks Music Publications)
13	<i>Rondo from Sonata in C K545 (Mozart)</i>	Hours with the Masters, Book 2 (Bosworth Publications)
14	<i>Old Spanish Guitar</i>	Cool Piano Funky Pieces 5 (Heather Hammond)
15	<i>Reflections in Blue</i>	Cool Piano Funky Pieces 5 (Heather Hammond)
16	<i>Long Lost Love</i>	Cool Piano Funky Pieces 5 (Heather Hammond)
17	<i>Scherzo (Kabalevsky)</i>	More Classics to Moderns, 5 (Yorktown Music Press)
18	<i>Allegro Giocoso (Haydn)</i>	More Classics to Moderns, 5 (Yorktown Music Press)
19	<i>When I'm Sixty Four</i>	Making the Grade, Grade 5 (Chester Music)
20	<i>Grandma Tells a Ghost Story (Kullak)</i>	Short Romantic Pieces for Piano, Book 2 (ABRSM Publications)
21	<i>The Evening Bells (Granados)</i>	Short Romantic Pieces for Piano, Book 2 (ABRSM Publications)
22	<i>Gavotte French Suite No 4 (Bach)</i>	Keyboard Anthology, Third Series, Book 3 (ABRSM Publications)
23	<i>Corrant Suite in B Flat (Handel)</i>	Keyboard Anthology, First Series, Book 3 (ABRSM Publications)
24	<i>Waltz Op 97 No 6</i>	23 Miscellaneous Pieces (Heller Publications)
25	<i>Miniature in D Minor</i>	Encore, Book 3, Grade 5 to Grade 6 (ABRSM Publications)
26	<i>Of Strange Lands and People</i>	After Hours for Piano Solos (Faber Publications)
27	<i>Gymnopedie (Satie)</i>	After Hours for Piano Solos (Faber Publications)



## Grade 6

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

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### Technical Studies

**15 Marks**

*Candidates can choose Scales and Arpeggios or Graded Piano Studies to fulfil the requirements for Technical Studies.*

**While technical exercises are optional, scales play an integral part to a candidate's development.**

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

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### Scales and Arpeggios

*All scales and arpeggios to be prepared hands together at the examiner's choice. All scales and arpeggios are to be played legato or staccato from memory. Suggested metronome mark - Scales: crotchet = 88 and Arpeggios: crotchet = 72*

*To be prepared legato and staccato.*

<b>Similar Motion</b>	Major: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	Four Octaves
	Harmonic Minor: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	Four Octaves
	Melodic Minor: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	Four Octaves
<b>A Third Apart</b>	Major: C and G	Two Octaves
	Harmonic Minor: C and G	
	<i>To be played legato only.</i>	
<b>Contrary Motion</b>	Major: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	Two Octave
	Harmonic Minor: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	
<b>Arpeggios</b>	<i>In root position and first inversion, legato only.</i>	
	Major: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	Four Octaves
	Minor: C, D, E, F sharp, B flat and A flat	Four Octaves
<b>Chromatic</b>	<i>Beginning on any note</i>	Four Octaves
<b>Chromatic</b>	<i>Legato Only.</i>	Two Octaves
<b>Contrary</b>	Beginning on D or A Flat	

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

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### **Dominant 7ths**

*Root Position*

Two Octaves

*To be played In the keys of: C, D and E*

### **Diminished 7ths**

*Similar Motion*

Two Octaves

*To be played in the key of: C*

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

### Graded Piano Studies:

As an alternative to the scales and arpeggios, candidates can present **two** of the following studies:

Name of Piece		Book
1	<i>Study in Broken Chords, Op. 38 No. 8</i>	Grade Piano Studies, First Series, Grade 6 (ABRSM Publication).
2	<i>Study in Lightness and Grace Op. 20 No. 24</i>	Grade Piano Studies, First Series, Grade 6 (ABRSM Publication).
3	<i>Study Op. 299 No. 18</i>	Grade Piano Studies, First Series, Grade 6 (ABRSM Publication).
4	<i>Study Op. 33 No. 9</i>	Grade Piano Studies, First Series, Grade 6 (ABRSM Publication).
5	<i>Study Op. 46 No. 23</i>	Grade Piano Studies, First Series, Grade 6 (ABRSM Publication).
6	<i>Prelude No. 30 from Op. 119 (Heller)</i>	23 Miscellaneous Pieces (ABRSM Publication)
7	<i>Five Jive</i>	Piano Studies in Classical, Jazz and Popular Styles, Intermediate Level (Universal Edition).
8	<i>Ragtime</i>	Piano Studies in Classical, Jazz and Popular Styles, Intermediate Level (Universal Edition).
10	<i>Scalic</i>	Piano Studies in Classical, Jazz and Popular Styles, Intermediate Level (Universal Edition).
11	<i>Chiefly Chromatic</i>	Jazz Piano Studies (Faber Music).
12	<i>Rags to Riches</i>	Jazz Piano Studies (Faber Music).
13	<i>Blues 5</i>	More Rhythm and Rag (ABRSM Publication).

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

### Sight Reading and Comprehension

15 Marks

*This section comprises of three sections (sight reading, theory and comprehension).*

#### Sight Reading

A short passage of moderate difficulty, hands together in any major and minor keys of:

**Allegro grazioso**

The musical score is for a short piano passage in 3/4 time, marked **Allegro grazioso**. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The piece consists of 10 measures. The first measure starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third measure has a crescendo (*cres.*) marking. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The eighth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The ninth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The tenth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score is written for piano with a treble and bass clef.

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

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The image displays two systems of musical notation for a piano piece. The first system, starting at measure 7, features a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together, with slurs and accents. The bass clef accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and single notes. The second system, starting at measure 13, continues the piece with similar melodic and harmonic textures, ending with a double bar line.

### Theory

*The examiner will ask questions in relation to any of the candidates prepared pieces.*

Name and Explain: As previous grades including dynamics, articulation, mood, tonality, performance directions and style.

Identify: Major and minor chords in root position, first inversion, second inversion and third inversion.

Identify: Major, Perfect and minor, augmented and diminished intervals (harmonic and melodic).

Identify: Perfect or Interrupted cadences in prepared pieces.

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

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### **Comprehension**

Describe: Background information about the composers of their prepared pieces at the request of the examiner. (*i.e. date of birth, birthplace, types of compositions/works*).



## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

### Aural Observation

**10 Marks**

The aural observation comprises of two sections (choice observation and memory)

### Observation

Candidates can choose one of the following Aural Observation or Harmonisation:

### Observation

To listen to a piece played by the examiner and to answer questions on the tonality of the piece, variations of dynamics, tempo, tempo changes, graduations of tone, articulations and recognition of tonality as major or minor.

**Tempo de Minuetto**

The musical score for 'Tempo de Minuetto' is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and concludes with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system (measures 7-12) features a *rall.* (ritardando) marking and an *a tempo* marking with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third system (measures 13-18) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ends with a *molto rall pp* (molto ritardando piano-pianissimo) marking.

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

Questions to Include:

- (i) Describe the opening bars; dynamics etc.
- (ii) Are there any tempo changes in the piece?
- (iii) Describe the ending: e.g. dynamics, tempo changes etc.

OR

### Harmonisation

To indicate suitable chords for a series of five notes in the treble at the keyboard. In the major keys of C, G, D or F.

A musical score in 4/4 time, consisting of two staves. The treble staff contains five notes: C4, E4, G4, B4, and C5. The bass staff is empty. A double bar line is placed after the first two notes. Below the bass staff, five chord symbols are aligned with the notes: (i) under C4, (iv) under E4, (vi) under G4, (ii) under B4, and (v) under C5.

To harmonise a perfect or interrupted cadence in the major keys of C, G, D or F.

A musical score in 4/4 time, consisting of two staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains two measures of music. The first measure has notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure has notes F#4, G4, A4, and B4. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains two measures of music. The first measure has notes C4, G3, and F#3. The second measure has notes G3, A3, and B3. A double bar line is placed after the first measure. Below the staves, the first measure is labeled "Perfect Cadence" and the second measure is labeled "Interrupted Cadence".

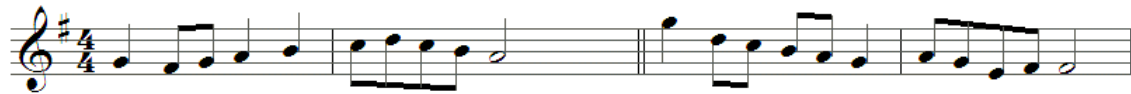
## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

To compose an answering phrase to a given two bar melody in the major key of C or G.

*Given Phrase*



*Sample Answering Phrase*



### Memory

Clap back from memory the rhythm of a four bar phrase in simple or compound time, and state the time signature as either simple triple, simple quadruple or compound duple. The passage will be played 3 times by the examiner and the pulse will be given at the beginning of the piece.



## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

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5 No. 2



Musical notation for No. 2, measure 5. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

10 No 3



Musical notation for No 3, measure 10. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Having identified the time signature the candidate will be asked to identify time values within the same passage.

To recognise a triad as major or minor, root position or first inversion.



Musical notation showing seven triads on a staff. The first five are in the treble clef, and the last two are in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

## The LSMD Grade 6 Piano Syllabus

To recognise a cadence as either perfect or interrupted

(1)

Interrupted

13 (2)

Perfect

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### Performance

To perform three pieces – There is a maximum of 20 marks per piece - See following page for details.

**60 Marks**

\*Schedule of Maximum Marks Awards for Grade 6 Examination: 100 Marks

\*Approximate Timing for Grade 6 Practical Exam: 30 minutes

## Grade 6 Exam Pieces

Candidates must choose **at least two pieces from the following list**. The third piece may be chosen from the pieces below or be of the candidates own choice of equal standard:

	Name of Piece	Composer	Book
1	<i>Air from French Suite No. 4 in E flat</i>	J.S. Bach	Hours with the Masters, Volume 5
2	<i>Fantasia in C</i>	Handel	Hours with the Masters, Volume 5
3	<i>Allegro in G minor, Suite No. 7</i>	Handel	Keyboard Anthology, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Series, Book 4 (ABRSM Publication)
4	<i>Capriccio in G minor, No. 9</i>	Handel	Album for the Piano, Vol. 43 (Schirmer Publications)
5	<i>Allemande, Movement 1 French Suite No. 3 in B minor</i>	Bach (BWV 814)	
6	<i>Le Coucou</i>	Daquin	Rondeau
7	<i>Scherzando, Movement 2, Sonata in C Sharp minor</i>	Haydn	HOB XV1/36 from Keyboard Anthology, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Series, Book 4 (ABRSM Publications)
8	<i>Gondolier's Song, Op.109, No. 14</i>	Burgmuller	More Romantic Pieces for Piano, Book 4 (ABRSM Publication)
10	<i>Prelude in C Minor, Op. 28, No. 20</i>	Frederick Chopin	
11	<i>Mazurka in G Minor, Op. 67, No. 2</i>	Frederick Chopin	
12	<i>Mazurka in B Flat Major, Op. 7, No. 1</i>	Frederick Chopin	
13	<i>Six Variations on a Swiss Song</i>	Ludwig Beethoven	
14	<i>The Sail Round the Rocks</i>	Dorothy Park	Five Traditional Airs
15	<i>Galop (Finale)</i>	Alfredo Casella	Children's Pieces (Universal Edition)
16	<i>The Sea is Angry</i>	William Alwyn	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Real Repertoire Grades V to VII
17	<i>The Top</i>	Neilsen	
18	<i>Bagatelle in C, Op. 119, No. 2</i>	Beethoven	Keyboard Anthology, Third Series, Book 4
19	<i>Les Petit Moulins a Vent</i>	Couperin	
20	<i>Waltz in B Major, Op. 39, No. 15</i>	Brahams	More Classics to Modern, Book 5
21	<i>Despertar del Cazador</i>	Granados	Keyboard Anthology, Second Series, Book 4
22	<i>Lorca's Last Walk</i>	Brent Parker	Three Spanish Pieces
23	<i>Four Calling Birds No. 4</i>	Bennett	Patridge Pie, Book 1
24	<i>Valse Op. 65, No. 6</i>	Prokofiev	Musique D'Enfants (Boosey and Hawkes)
25	<i>On the Lake Op. 77, No. 13</i>	Heinrich Hoffmann	
26	<i>Blue Mood</i>	William Gillock	
27	<i>Over the Rainbow</i>	Harold Arlem	Arranged by Dave Stapleton
28	<i>Solfreggietto</i>	C.P.E Bach	World Renowned Piano Pieces, Book 1
29	<i>Star of the Show</i>	Cool Piano, Book 5: Funky Pieces Grade 5 to 6 (edited by Heather Hammond)	
30	<i>Just Messin'</i>	Cool Piano, Book 5: Funky Pieces Grade 5 to 6 (edited by Heather Hammond)	
31	<i>Back to the Barrel House</i>	Cool Piano, Book 5: Funky Pieces Grade 5 to 6 (edited by Heather Hammond)	
32	<i>The Gypsy King</i>	After Hours for Piano Solos (Faber Music)	
33	<i>Clouds</i>	After Hours for Piano Solos (Faber Music)	

## Notes

**Published by**  
**The Leinster School of Music & Drama**

