

Swan

(Focus: extended scales/right hand string crossing)

Swan's partner song is Raven

Practice Tips:

Practice the right hand part of Swan alone on open strings several times before playing the entire song. Practicing your hands separately is often a good idea. Narrowing your focus to one hand helps your brain and your fingers communicate with one another faster and more efficiently.

*It is very important to alternate right hand fingers as you play. But... there is an exception to this rule in Swan. Going from measure two to measure three the 'm' finger is used twice for two reasons: (1.) the half note at the end of measure two gives the 'm' finger plenty of time to get ready to play again and (2.) starting each measure with 'm' makes the string crossing throughout the piece much easier.

The musical notation is written on a treble clef staff in common time (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The piece consists of 8 measures. Measure 1 starts with a first finger (1) on the open string (0) and is followed by a triplet of notes on the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd strings. Measure 2 continues the triplet and ends with a half note on the 2nd string. Measure 3 starts with a middle finger (m) on the 2nd string, followed by a triplet of notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd strings. Measure 4 starts with a middle finger (m) on the 2nd string, followed by a triplet of notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd strings. Measure 5 starts with a middle finger (m) on the 2nd string, followed by a triplet of notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd strings. Measure 6 starts with a middle finger (m) on the 2nd string, followed by a triplet of notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd strings. Measure 7 starts with a middle finger (m) on the 2nd string, followed by a triplet of notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd strings. Measure 8 starts with a middle finger (m) on the 2nd string, followed by a triplet of notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd strings. A double bar line is at the end of measure 8.

Amazing Animal Facts:

*Swans mate for life.

*In Britain, all Mute Swans are property of the Crown.

*The curving neck of the Mute Swan has the most neck vertebrae (23) of any bird.