

James M. Stephenson

Italian Rainbow Cookie Cake

for clarinet and piano

from "Yehtudes" - a set of 12 clarinet etudes
curated by John Bruce Yeh
cover photo & title by Molly Yeh



YEHTUDES

A clarinet etude project in consultation with John Bruce Yeh, the long-serving Chicago Symphony assistant principal and solo E-flat clarinetist. 12 etudes created, focusing on common clarinet issues decided by John, and where each title is based on a recipe from blog-posts ("my name is Yeh") created by his daughter Molly.

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"Yehtude" #8 - "big legato leaps upward"

from composer Jim Stephenson:

This "Yehtude" is created as an effort to focus on upward leaps that cover large intervals.

Essentially a theme with variation, and a time signature that requires some rhythmic calculation, this "yehtude" is harmonically somewhat straight-forward.

Therefore, hopefully the player can concentrate on the leaps that span very large distances on the clarinet, and at varying speeds. (quarter notes, eighths, and sixteenths)

The rainbow in Molly's title inspired the slurs whose arcs resemble its colorful shape. The minor key and harmonies somewhat echo an Italian sound.

For fun, I added the ROY G BIV (rainbow) colors at key moments in the etude.

Jim Stephenson: July 29, 2018

More of Jim's music for clarinet can be found at ComposerJim.com

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title comes from Molly Yeh's blog: "My name is Yeh"
"Yehtude" #8 - "big legato leaps upward"

Allegretto, with color

The musical score is written for Clarinet and Piano. It consists of three systems of music, each with a Clarinet staff and a Piano grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor), and the time signature is 7/8. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto, with color'. The score is divided into sections by color-coded brackets: [RED] for the first two systems and [ORANGE] for the third system. The Clarinet part features melodic lines with slurs and dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The Piano accompaniment consists of rhythmic patterns in the right hand and sustained notes in the left hand, also with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The third system, marked [ORANGE], includes a *mp* dynamic marking. The score ends with a double bar line.

13

mf *f*

mf *f*

Musical score for measures 13-16. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The top staff contains a melodic line with slurs and accents, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and increasing to forte (*f*). The grand staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line of half notes, also marked with *mf* and *f* dynamics.

17

[YELLOW]

pp

pp

Musical score for measures 17-20. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is three flats. The top staff is marked with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and contains a melodic line with slurs. The grand staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line of half notes, also marked with *pp* dynamics.

21

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

Musical score for measures 21-24. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is three flats. The top staff is marked with *poco a poco cresc.* and contains a melodic line with slurs. The grand staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line of half notes, also marked with *poco a poco cresc.*

25 [GREEN]

f p *f p* *f p*

28 [BLUE]

f p *f p* *f p*

31

mf *mf p*