

OMTA Conference Syllabus Repertoire Panel  
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Since the goal of this panel is to introduce unlisted pieces for syllabus repertoire, I want to focus on various pieces of just a few composers, mostly in Romantic style.

In choosing syllabus pieces for the beginners, level 1-2, the main criteria should be based on:

1. the key (should include minor)
2. diverse articulation - legato, staccato, detached, two-note slurs
3. contrasting character of the pieces (cantabile with legato articulation, scherzando style with staccato touches, maybe the piece with melody in the LH, in more polyphonic style or hands together in parallel/contrasting movement).

The technical difficulty is based on syllabus musicianship basic requirements - 5 note scales and blocked and broken triads for level 1, 1 octave scale/arpeggios, triads and inversions for level 2, major scales/arpeggios up to 2 octaves for level 3, major scales up to 3 octaves for level 4.

I would like to focus on the Romantic period, since there are 5 composers in level 1 and 4 in level 2 listed, and specifically Soviet composers. One particular composer is **Aleksandr Goedicke**.

**60 Easy Piano Pieces for Beginners**, op 36. They can be found in the IMSLP/Petrucci music library. These pieces are Romantic in style and the level is mostly 2,3,4, a few level 1, and can be taught by route.

Examples: **Level 1**

**No 2, Three notes song** - RH - legato, staccato articulation, can be played in different pentascales, with different sets of fingers - 3-2-1, 4-3-2, 5-4-3.

**No 9, Russian Song** - LH plays 3 notes chords, RH - 2 notes slur, staccato, accents, position change, syncopated rhythm in LH can be taught by route.

**Level 2**

**No 4, Rabbit** - RH - position change, fingers substitution, hand contraction, hand choreography in 16th notes passages.

**No 5, Melodie** - cantabile melodic line in RH, modulation in G,F major, 2 voices in LH.

**No 10, The Cuckoo and the Quail** - very gentle staccato touches, 2 notes slur, soft dynamics, melodic line in LH, quick dotted rhythm repeated notes in RH.

### Level 3

**No 19, Slow Waltz** - very expressive RH melodic line, mostly legato, LH is active melodically, splitting into 2 voices, rubato tempo, modulation.

**No 21, Dance** - full of energy, requires active fingers and staccato articulation in both hands, contrasting dynamics.

**No 26, Etude** - question/answer type of phrasing, requires very active fingers and good ensemble between hands, quick position change.

### Children pieces Op. 57, 59 Level 4

These pieces have technical and artistic challenges, very musically imaginative.

**Op 57 no 8, The Bees** - LH has a leading cantabile melody, voicing challenges, expressive phrasing. RH - continuous 16th notes, imitating bees.

**Op 59 no 8, Waltz** - melancholic melody in LH, in the middle section - mood change, arpeggiated passages in RH

**Op 59 no 23, Pastorale** - simple form, repetitive phrases with slight changes.

**Victor Kosenko 4 children's pieces** level 3-4:

**Scherzino**, level 3 - fast tempo, active fingers detached articulation, contrasting dynamic, very energetic.

**March**, level 3 - quick repetitive notes in RH, in the middle section LH melody with RH legato 3rds/6ths melodic line.

Another composer is **Samuel Maykapar**:

**Little Novelettes, Op. 8**, level 4-5

**Biriulki, Op. 28**, level 3-4

**Miniatures, Op. 33**, level 2-3-4

### Little Novelettes.

**Toccatina**, level 4-5 - RH has fast 16th notes passages, requires very precise fingertips touch. Very energetic.

**Blacksmith shop**, level 4 - bright, humorous, interesting technical challenges, with over/under hand choreography, very strong, energetic staccato articulation, accents.

### Miniatures, Op 33

**Waltz**, level 3 - lovely melodic line in RH with short motives phrase construction, both hands in treble clef, staccato repeated notes in both hands, valse accompaniment in LH. In the 2nd section - LH broken chords accompaniment.

**Reflection**, level 2 - very expressive RH melodic legato line, long phrases, requiring lots of wrist “breathing”, rubato tempo.

**Mazurka**, level 4 - elegant dance, not very fast, syncopated rhythm, dotted notes rhythm in melody, accents.

### Biriulki, Op 28

**In the garden**, level 3 - light staccato and tenuto notes touch, 2 note slur phrase ending.

**Walts**, level 4 - lovely cantabile melodic line, with short legato motives, LH has valse accompaniment.

**Troubled moment**, level 2-3 - agitated, 2 notes slurs in both hands, light touch in LH, expressive phrasing.

**Fairy Tale**, level 2-3 - very expressive, “speaking” melodic lines, question/answer type of phrasing, soft dynamics, listening through long notes.

**Lullaby**, level 3 - soft dynamic, rocking LH accompaniment, expressive harmonies, rubato tempo.

Another very interesting composer is **Nancy Lau**, [Pets will play, when the family's away](#) level 1-2. These pieces are very exciting and enjoyable.

**Chipper's Chirp**, level 2 - LH has repeated rhythmic pattern, RH has a little trill/the Chopper's chirp an octave higher.

**Fast Harry**, level 3 - happy piece with quick RH motives that requires active fingers without tension in the hand and arm.

**Elissa Milne**, [Easy little Peppers](#), level 2-3. Pieces are delightful, full of humor and imagination.

**Cat and Mouse** - very imaginative, LH has staccato touch ostinato, depicting nervous mouse, tenuto chords in the middle section. Time signature is 5/4. Melodic line in RH has short legato motives.

**The Lone Echidna** - LH has continuous and busy legato ostinato figure, RH melodic line in 3rds and 6ths, syncopated rhythm.

**Andrey Komanetsky In The Romantic Style**, level 4. Beautiful pieces, very imaginative, 1-2 pages long, have a variety of technical challenges.

**Forgotten Waltz** - dorian mode, very melancholic mood, modulations in relative major, LH has arpeggiated passages at the end. Sounds more difficult than it is.

**Prelude in F** - short, reflective, jazzy, expressive RH melodic line with long legato phrases. Rubato tempo.

**Musical Treasures, Volume 1**, level 1-2-3 - variety of different characters and emotions, full of humor, interesting harmonies, rhythms, shorter in length.

**A Brisk Walk in the Park**, level 1-2 - slight RH position change, LH descending 4 notes ostinato pattern, staccato 3rds in middle section.

**Dance of the Coconuts**, level 3 - funky little piece with syncopated rhythm.

**Musical Treasures, Volume 2**, level 3- 4 - longer, more musically sophisticated pieces, jazzy.

**Animal Band** - humorous piece, 3 notes slur and staccato articulation. Melody travels from RH to LH.

**Prelude in D** - this piece is in Baroque style with even flow of 16th notes passed from LH to RH.

Bibliography:

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Children's Pieces Op 57, 59 IMSLP/Petrucci music library

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Samuel Maykapar, Little Novelettes, Op. 8, Biriulki, Op. 28, Miniatures, Op. 33,  
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Nancy Law, Pets Will Play when the Family's away, The FJH music company INC.

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