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# *Every Picture Tells a Story*

*Fantasy Piece for Violoncello and Piano*

*Nigel Morgan*

## **About the piece**

One of the favorite ice-breaker questions asked in group workshops is ‘If your house caught fire and you could only save one possession what would it be?’ Many people answer without hesitation, ‘My photo album’. Every picture tells a story, and so much so that infant teachers begin introducing concepts of history by asking children to share photos of themselves as babies, and then to find pictures of parents and grandparents. The photo can say so much, not only about ourselves, but also about the world we live in aged four, fourteen or forty.

This short fantasy piece is part of *Childhood and Memory*, a sequence of works written for the Robert Schumann anniversary in July 2006. It joins *The White Light of Wonder* (for solo piano), *A World of Miracles* (for violin and piano) and *The Man with the Golden Key* (for voice and piano or piano trio).

*Every Picture Tells a Story* is a conflation of the song cycle *The Man with the Golden Key*. It brings together a sequence of scenes that take their inspiration from a personal collection of photos, paintings, children’s drawings, and imagined images inspired initially by a chapter from G.K.Chesterton’s *Autobiography*.

The work is also an extension of a piece of the same name specially written for Jane Chapman for amplified harpsichord and visual media. This digital visual media component may be used with this duo version. It comprises a series of 12 visual scenes devised as Flash media by Phil Legard. In performance these scenes may be triggered by the pianist with a single keystroke from a laptop computer keyboard. A scene changes at each double bar in the score. The visual material presents a living room wall upon which a series of photos, paintings, drawings and animations appear (and disappear). Ideally this ‘wall’ should be projected on to a screen behind the performers. A web presentation is available as a guide on the composer’s website: [www.nigel-morgan.co.uk](http://www.nigel-morgan.co.uk)

All performance instructions (dynamics, tempo, articulation, bowing) are offered as an initial guide, no more.



*12 scenes from the visual media component.*

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# Every Picture Tells a Story

1 *un poco meccanico* ♩ = 90

Cello

Piano

*mf*

6 *poco allargando*, *a tempo piu meno mosso e legato*

*f*

*mp*

*mp*

11 *come prima*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

17

3/4 5/8 3/4 2/4 7/8 3/4

*f*

*f*

*f*

22 *poco rallentando*

2 *intimo* ♩ = 75

3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

27

3 *agilita* ♩ = 90

3/4 2/4 5/8 6/8

*f*

*mf*

*mf*

34

*mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

40

*mf* *f* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

47

**4** *con spirito* ♩ = 95

*f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*





72

72

*mp*

*poco cresc.*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

This system contains measures 72 through 76. It features a bass line and a grand staff. The bass line starts with a half rest, followed by a quarter note, and then a series of eighth notes. The grand staff begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. A crescendo marking (*poco cresc.*) is placed above the grand staff between measures 74 and 75. The dynamic reaches mezzo-forte (*mf*) by measure 75 and remains there through measure 76.

77

77

*f*

*f*

This system contains measures 77 through 80. The bass line continues with eighth notes and quarter notes. The grand staff maintains a forte (*f*) dynamic throughout this system.

81

81

*poco dim.*

*mp*

*mp*

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

This system contains measures 81 through 84. The grand staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. A decrescendo marking (*poco dim.*) is placed above the grand staff between measures 82 and 83. The dynamic reaches mezzo-piano (*mp*) by measure 83 and remains there through measure 84. The system concludes with a double bar line and a  $\frac{2}{4}$  time signature.



100 8 giusto ed ardito ♩ = 135

*mf* *f* *pp*

*mf* *senza pedale*

105 *sul ponticello* *poco crescendo*

*mf* *f* *mf*

*ff* *p* *mp* *mf*

111 *gliss.*

*f* *mp* *f* *ff* *mf* *mf*

117 *vibrato ad lib.*

**9** *cosi uno ghatto* ♩ = 120  
*pizz. (normale)*

*pp* *ff* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf*

124

*mf* *mf* *f* *f* *mf* *mf*

129

**10** *luminare e intimo* ♩ = 65  
*arco. con sord ad lib.*

*mf* *mf* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp*

134 11 *ardito* ♩ = 90

*mf* *f*

\* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \*

140 *poco accelerando* *rallentando e pesante*

*mf*

\* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \*

147 12 *poco largamente* ♩ = 70

*f* *mp*

153

*mf* *f* *mf* *f*

158

*mf* *mp*

*In Memory of Mary Potts*