

Witches in the Wind by Ernest Adams (1886-1959)

Description: Published in 1937, this is a jovial pictorial piece, suited to young students, great for teaching expression, lots of score markings to interpret that directly tie in with the narrative. Fun recital piece. AMEB Grade 4, List C.

What does the title mean?

It is a descriptive title that easily brings to the mind images of witches on broomsticks riding in the wind through the ascending and descending triplets. The contrasting middle section, has a spooky and grotesque character.

What key is this in?

C major

Are there any modulations?

Yes.

The key changes at bar 17 to A minor (the relative minor of C major) and then moves back to C major at bar 25. This is a sectional key change.

Score markings:

4/4 – simple quadruple – 4 crotchets per bar

Allegretto scherzando – a little fast and lively (not as fast as allegro) a little joke (humorous)

Metronome marking – 184 crotchets per minute

Poco Ritenuto – little immediately slower

A tempo – return to original speed

Moto primo – 1st speed

Natural sign – cancels the sharp or flat

Flat sign – lower the note by a semitone

Sharp sign – raise the note by a semitone

mp – mezzo piano = moderately soft

p – piano = soft

cresc. – crescendo = gradually getting louder

mf – mezzo forte = moderately loud

f – forte = loud

dim. – diminuendo = gradually getting softer

pp – pianissimo = very soft

sf or sfz – sforzando – sudden accent

leggiero – lightly

animato – animated

simile – similar (to save ink) – continue as before

pedal marks (damper pedal)

tenuto – hold for full value – gentle emphasis

staccato – short and detached

mezzo staccato – moderately short and detached

slurs – legato – smooth and well connected

tie – tie the notes together (combine the note values)

accent – emphasise the note

arpeggiation – rapidly play the notes of the chord ascending

triplet – 3 notes where 2 of the same note usually go

acciaccatura – a crush note

fermata – pause- hold the note longer than written

grottesco - grotesque