**AUTHOR’S PREFACE**

                Teachers and students in music schools are already familiar with the works from my first collection *Musical Tales*. When performing, the young performers meet with fairy-tale characters (*Little Red Riding Hood, Wolf, Winnie-the-Pooh, Witch and Fairy*), cute animals (*Bear, Fox, Cat*) and see beautiful views of nature (pieces *Water Drops, Wind and Leaves, Prelude*). The collection, which was released in 2011, is still widely used in music and arts classes. The musical pieces have been performed at concerts and festivals, as well as being included in the curriculum. Inspired by these good responses and reviews, I have decided to release a second issue.

               This second collection of pieces with piano music, *The Circus Has Arrived*, is a continuation of the first collection. This time, I suggest meetings with the charming and colorful and sometimes funny characters of the circus.

              Like the first collection, the second collection is related to my work in the Ballet Department of the National M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art, where I am an accompanist in the acting technique lessons of the teacher-expert, Prof. Dr. Aldona Adomaitytė at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. As I accompanied these lessons, I realised that I could not always adapt the music of other composers in order to fully reveal the characters and to make accents of action and movement that coincided with the musical accompaniment. I felt a great need to create new musical material. With my experience and theoretical knowledge, I started to create music for the acting technique lessons, in order to help the actors feel the moods of the sketches and the character traits.

              In *The Circus Has Arrived* collection, the piano pieces are not arranged according to their complexity, but rather like in a circus – the principle of contrast is applied, so that one character changes to another: animals appear after the gymnasts, acrobats appear after the animals, *Sad Clown Songs* is followed by *Happy Monkeys* and the funny *Dance of the Poodle* is followed by the menacing and dangerous *Tigers*. As always occurs in the circus, the mysterious figure of Fakir is at the center. At the beginning and at the end of the collection, there are marches: the uplifting *The Welcome March* and *The Farewell March* with a note of sadness, when all the characters (actors) appear with smiles and express their love for the audience.

                  The cycle of piano pieces *The Circus Has Arrived* is intended for middle and senior students of music schools, and is also suitable for the musical illustration of theatrical performances for dancing classes in general education schools. It can also be used in ballet schools and in acting lessons or plastic improvisation lessons, when creating sketches and portraits of characters. I hope my music will bring a lot of positivity and joy by being fun and entertaining, and that the young artists will forget their boredom.

              I dedicate this music to all the children who love to dance, act and play the piano. Choose a character that you like, make friends with it, play and have a good time together!

          I hope my music brings you a lot of positivity and joy.

Best regards,

Olga Beliukevičienė

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