

Cantabile

Johann Kaspar Mertz
(1806 – 1856)

Cantabile

The musical score for "Cantabile" by Johann Kaspar Mertz is presented in four systems, each on a single staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various guitar-specific notations:

- System 1 (Measures 1-4):** Starts with a *p* (piano) dynamic. Measure 3 contains a natural harmonic marked with a bracket and the Roman numeral IX. Fingerings (2, 1, 4, 2) are indicated above the notes in measure 3.
- System 2 (Measures 5-8):** Measure 5 is marked with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. Measure 6 features a natural harmonic marked with a bracket and the Roman numeral IX. Fingerings (2, 1, 4, 2, 4) are shown above the notes in measure 6.
- System 3 (Measures 9-12):** Measure 9 is marked with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 12 includes a breath mark (a horizontal line with a vertical stroke) and a natural harmonic marked with a bracket and the Roman numeral IX. Fingerings (4, 3, 1) are indicated above the notes in measure 12.
- System 4 (Measures 13-16):** Measure 13 is marked with a *p* dynamic. Measure 14 includes a natural harmonic marked with a bracket and the Roman numeral IX. Measure 15 features a 6/6 CII (Cilindrico II) marking. Fingerings (2, 1, 4, 2) are shown above the notes in measure 14.

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First system of musical notation for the piece "Cantabile" by Johann Kaspar Mertz. The system includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the guitar accompaniment is written in the bass staff. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first measure of the guitar accompaniment shows a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The system concludes with a measure containing a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3).

Second system of musical notation, starting at measure 5. The melody continues with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The guitar accompaniment features a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3). The system concludes with a measure containing a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3).

Third system of musical notation, starting at measure 9. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The guitar accompaniment features a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3). The system concludes with a measure containing a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3).

Fourth system of musical notation, starting at measure 13. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The guitar accompaniment features a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3). The system concludes with a measure containing a barre at the second fret (2) and a fingered note (3).

Musical Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

1. Reduce work with posture and a positive attitude
2. Troubleshoot - Everything should be easy
3. Breathe
4. Trust yourself to play accurately and musically inspired (instead of judging)
5. Always play as a gift to yourself and others

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:

1. Make small sections
2. Know all the notes and musical markings
3. Clap and count the rhythm aloud
4. Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
6. Play hands together, pausing when needed (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together slowly in rhythm, counting aloud

Musical Starting Points:

1. Decide which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
5. Don't let the high notes stand out (any note higher than the ones before and after)

Practice Tips:

1. Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
2. For tricky spots, state out loud exactly what the problem is, in every detail.
3. Memorize every piece (even if you don't, you'll learn it faster if you try)
4. Have a purpose behind each repetition (so you don't ingrain bad habits).
5. Video yourself for performance practice, and to hear what is working.

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