

TRINITY
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YOUNG COMPOSERS' COMPENDIUM

Three pieces from Trinity's
Piano Syllabus 2021-2023

THUNTAWECH
MIFSUD
BOTTERILL



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Biographies

Mintra Thuntawech / Thailand

Mintra Thuntawech is 30 years old and lives in Bangkok, Thailand. She has been learning and playing the piano for more than 20 years and has taken many piano exams. She also plays the violin and two Thai instruments: the Sau-Duang (Thai treble fiddle) and the Khim (a type of dulcimer). Mintra has taught piano at various music institutes in Thailand and currently teaches at her own music studio 'Piano Room BKK' as well as at Chulalongkorn University Demonstration Elementary School. Mintra conducts teacher training courses at several music institutes including the Kawai Music School and the Bunditpatanasilpa Institute. Mintra has a Masters Degree in Music Education from the Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok; her thesis was on developing piano lessons based on Thai folk music for students at beginner to intermediate levels. Mintra composed 'Muay Thai (The Boxing Star)' which is included in the new Trinity Piano syllabus (2021-2023) at Initial.

Maria Mifsud / Malta

Maria Mifsud is 25 years old and lives in Gozo, Malta. She has been playing the piano since she was nine and has completed Trinity graded exams in piano and theory. Once she started learning the piano, she was captivated by the instrument and inspired to work on new piano pieces which she would write and perform as part of her daily practice routine. Maria began playing the violin as a second instrument. Her first official piano composition was written in 2011, and in the following year she was invited to perform it at the Ehrbar Hall in Vienna as a winner of the Golden Key Piano Composition Competition. Maria's love for composition pushed her to further her studies at the University of Malta where she obtained a BA(Hons) Degree in Music. She also completed an ATCL, AMusTCL and LMusLCM diplomas. After being awarded a scholarship, Maria graduated from Berklee College of Music in Valencia with a Masters Degree in Scoring for Film, Television and Video Games. This has given her the opportunity to conduct and professionally record her compositions with film orchestras at AIR Studios in London, Palau de les Arts in Valencia and East Connection in Budapest. Maria composed 'Remembrance' which is included in the new Trinity Piano syllabus (2021-2023) at Grade 4.

Charlotte Botterill / UK

Charlotte Botterill is 30 years old and lives in St Albans, UK. She has been playing the piano on and off for most of her life and passed her grade 8 exam with merit. She has a first class BMus degree in Musical Composition from Brunel University and has been composing regularly for the last five or six years, although her very first composition was written 15 years ago. Charlotte enjoys listening to a wide variety of genres including romantic, impressionism, rock, jazz, blues, soul and minimalism, and her work reflects this. She is also interested in music which is inspired by, or is a fusion of, music from different cultures. Charlotte enjoys working with diverse groups of local musicians as it allows her to write in an array of styles and satisfies many of her musical tastes. Charlotte composed 'Soho' which is included in the new Trinity Piano syllabus (2021-2023) at Grade 7.

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Performance notes

INITIAL Muay Thai / Thuntawech

Page 2

- ▶ Counting
- ▶ Different note values
- ▶ Expression

Muay Thai is a form of boxing and the repeating, descending left-hand notes which underpin the right-hand melody suggest the excitement and tension of a boxing match. Keep the dynamic level low at the beginning to add to the story of the music. The notes lie comfortably under the hands in a five-finger position; practise each hand separately to gain confidence in playing the left- and right-hand parts before trying them together. At bar 9 a new idea is introduced with a *ff* marking and accented chords in 5ths in the right hand. Enjoy the drama of the music here and give the accented notes plenty of 'punch'. In the final line, the left hand takes over the accented figure and recalls the descending notes of the first two lines. The *rit.* in the final bar suggests the fight is over, but who knows who won it?!

GRADE 04 Remembrance / Mifsud

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- ▶ Contemporary, romantic
- ▶ Lateral arm movement
- ▶ Voicing

This attractive, highly expressive piece by Maltese composer Maria Mifsud has a nostalgic, reflective mood and will suit students with confidence in keyboard geography and managing several voices within the compass of a single hand.

The left-hand accompaniment comprises broken chord patterns. To give them the necessary smoothness and fluidity use lateral (sideways) arm movement and a flexible wrist to articulate the hand onto the notes rather than trying to stretch to reach them, particularly in, for example, bars 2, 4 and 6.

The right hand has, in effect, two voices – an upper melody and an accompanying lower voice. To hear and shape the melody, practice playing it without the lower notes. This will really help you voice bars 5–8 where the melodic line is accompanied by semiquavers. Again, some lateral arm movement will help you manage the octave stretches, assisted by the pedal.

When the music moves into the upper register of the keyboard (from bar 9), shift slightly to the right on the piano stool so that the left hand does not have to reach awkwardly across the body. Aim for a sweet, singing tone in the melody and don't be shy about bringing as much expression as possible through the dynamics and the *molto rit.* at bar 12. The direction *Con dolcezza* means with sweetness/gentleness and this should inform your approach throughout.

GRADE 07 Soho / Botterill

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- ▶ Varying musical styles
- ▶ Rhythm and meter
- ▶ Expression

Charlotte Botterill is a British composer and her piece 'Soho' reflects her eclectic approach to composing. It features several contemporary musical styles, including pop and soul, as well as a strong jazz influence. An evocative snapshot of the varied and edgy nightlife of the Soho district of London – from cool cafés and cocktail bars to jazz clubs – this piece is an atmospheric 'sound journey' through the night-time streets, and will appeal to older teenagers and adult players who are confident with syncopation and changing metres.

Much of the character of the music comes from swung rhythms, syncopations and cross-rhythms, its muted jazz harmonies, and repeating motifs, or fragments of motifs, such as the right-hand pattern of chords in bar 4 and the bass riff and groove of bars 4–10, which is the main melodic focus of the first section. There is plenty of scope for thoughtful rubato and expression in the first section, while bars 22–38 should follow a strict beat.

The composer has indicated only sparse pedal markings, giving you the option to try out additional pedalling ideas to create colour and mood in the music; some sections may benefit from richer pedalling. The final tempo change offers scope for a really atmospheric ending, with the pedal slightly blurring the closing notes.

Subtle changes in dynamics, for example in the bass riff and the recurring chord groove in bars 7 and 10, will lend greater expression and atmosphere to the music. Don't be afraid to experiment with shifts in dynamics, and play boldly and with attitude through the *mf* and *f* sections.

Share your performance of this piece →

Initial

Muay Thai

(The Boxing Star)

Mintra Thuntawech

(b. 1989)

Allegro ♩ = 100

1 *mp* 3 2

5 *mf* 2

9 *ff* 5 1 5 2

13 *rit.* 5 1 3 2

Grade 4

Remembrance

Maria Mifsud

(b. 1994)

Con dolcezza ♩ = 96

The musical score for 'Remembrance' is written for piano in 6/8 time. It begins with a tempo of 96 beats per minute and a 'Con dolcezza' instruction. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into five systems of music. The first system (measures 1-3) features a melody in the right hand with fingerings 2, 1, 5, 4, 2, 3, 4 and a bass line with fingerings 5, 2, 1, 2, 1, 5. The second system (measures 4-6) has a melody with fingerings 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and a bass line with fingerings 5, 2, 1, 5. The third system (measures 7-9) includes a melody with fingerings 5, 4, 5, 4, 5 and a bass line with fingerings 5, 4, 5. The fourth system (measures 10-12) is marked 'molto rit.' and features a melody with fingerings 3, 5, 4, 3 and a bass line with fingerings 5, 4, 3. The fifth system (measures 13-15) is marked 'rit.' and includes a melody with fingerings 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and a bass line with fingerings 5, 4, 3. The score concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

Share your performance of this piece →

Grade 7
Soho

Charlotte Botterill
(b. 1989)

Freely, swung

With a relaxed groove

21

mf

mp

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21, 22, and 23. Measure 21 features a treble clef with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass clef with a whole note chord. Measure 22 continues the treble line with eighth notes and has a bass line with chords. Measure 23 shows a treble line with a half note and a bass line with chords. A piano pedal (Ped.) is indicated at the end of measure 23.

25

mf

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25, 26, 27, and 28. Measure 25 has a treble clef with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. Measure 26 continues the treble line with eighth notes. Measure 27 features a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass line with chords. Measure 28 has a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass line with chords. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 28.

29

3

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29, 30, and 31. Measure 29 has a treble clef with chords and a bass line with chords. Measure 30 continues the treble line with chords and a bass line with chords. Measure 31 has a treble clef with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. A piano pedal (Ped.) is indicated at the end of measure 31.

32

mp

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32, 33, 34, and 35. Measure 32 has a treble clef with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. Measure 33 continues the treble line with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. Measure 34 has a treble clef with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. Measure 35 features a treble clef with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass line with chords.

36

mf

mp

Ped.

4-5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36, 37, 38, and 39. Measure 36 has a treble clef with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. Measure 37 continues the treble line with eighth notes and a bass line with chords. Measure 38 features a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass line with chords. Measure 39 has a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass line with chords. A piano pedal (Ped.) is indicated at the end of measure 39. The number '4-5' is written at the bottom right of the system.

39 **rall.**

dim. *p* *mp*

45

43 **Slower, freer, straight quavers**

legato

46

mf

49 **Joyous grove!** ♩ = 138 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$

f

52

mf *f* *p*

56 *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

59 *mf*

con. Ped.

62 *f dim.* *mp* *p*

Straight quavers rall. a tempo

Ped.

66 *mf* *mp* *p*

Straight quavers

Ped. Ped.

70 **Slowing to the end** *pp*

l.h. *più p*

Ped. Ped.