

A skit for piano and orchestra

Note: The full orchestra sections, in the main, are based on Francis Poulenc's XI Improvisation in G minor for piano from "Les Quinze Improvisations".

The pianist and orchestra are in place. The conductor raises his/her baton in readiness to begin. The pianist starts without the orchestra or conductor. The pianist seems to be in a world of his/her own.

A. The conductor thinks the pianist's *rallentando* indicates for the orchestra to join in. He readies the orchestra. The pianist begins to enjoy his own playing and is still unaware of the orchestra.

B. As the pianist continues the conductor turns, folds his arms, and glares.

C. The conductor is beside himself. He readies the orchestra. The pianist is right into it.

D. The conductor brings in the orchestra *fortissimo*. The pianist stops.

E. The pianist is taken aback. He/she gathers the music (if they're using it) and begins to leave the stage. The conductor starts the orchestra without the conductor and races off after the pianist. He stops the pianist and after a brief conversation the pianist returns to the piano.

F. Pianist, conductor, and orchestra are ready to begin. Once again the pianist begins without them

G. Once again the orchestra breaks in over the pianist who stops playing.

H. The conductor indicates to the pianist to play. The pianist does so. They reach what appears to be a cadential conclusion.

I. The pianist starts off again on his/her own.

J. The orchestra gradually joins in. If you can't beat them, join them. All live happily ever after right to the end.