

# Edward MACDOWELL (1860-1908)

## To a Hummingbird Op 7 No 2

UPPER  
INTERMEDIATE

Don't be misled by the title or the temptation towards literalism. This doesn't actually have to sound like a hummingbird. For MacDowell, a title, motto, or poem was affixed to the music only to indicate what the stimulus had been. And while a long-standing attraction towards Celtic and Norse legends might imply a grandiose vision of tone-painting, he was just as happy evoking the flora and fauna of his native New England.

*Playing tips:* You may have to resist the desire to dash straight in and play quickly. Slow and concentrated practice is crucial in order to maintain a performance devoid of wrong notes. Each note needs to be clearly heard, which is a challenge in itself, what with the *pianississimo* dynamic that prevails throughout much of the piece.

As fast and light as possible ♩ = 168

Musical score for measures 1-4. The piece is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'As fast and light as possible' with a quarter note equal to 168 beats per minute. The dynamic is *ppp*. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern, while the left hand provides a simple accompaniment. Fingerings are indicated: 3 1 in the first measure, and 3 1 in the second measure.

Musical score for measures 5-7. The right hand continues with eighth-note patterns, including a sequence of notes 3, 2, 3, 4, 5. The left hand accompaniment includes a *ppp* dynamic marking in measure 7. Fingerings are indicated: 3 in measure 5, and 2 3 4 5 in measure 6.

Musical score for measures 8-10. The right hand features more complex eighth-note patterns with slurs and ties. The left hand accompaniment includes fingerings 3 1, 2 5, and 1 3. Fingerings for the right hand include 4 1 2, 5 1, and 4 1.

Musical score for measures 11-14. The right hand continues with intricate eighth-note patterns. The left hand accompaniment includes fingerings 2 and 1. Fingerings for the right hand include 3 1 4 1, 5 2, 5, 4 1, and 4 1 3 2 1 2.

15

Musical score for measures 15-17. Treble clef with key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Fingerings: 4, 1, 3, 4, 2. Dynamics: piano.

18

Musical score for measures 18-21. Treble clef with key signature of three sharps. Fingerings: 2, 3, 2, 1, 1, 3, 3, 1, 4. Dynamics: *p*. Bass clef with fingerings 1/4 and 2/5.

22

Musical score for measures 22-25. Treble clef with key signature of three sharps. Fingerings: 2, 1, 1, 2, 5, 1, 2. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*. Includes a "Red." section.

26

Musical score for measures 26-29. Treble clef with key signature of three sharps. Fingerings: 2, 1, 1, 3, 3, 4. Dynamics: *p*.

30

Musical score for measures 30-33. Treble clef with key signature of three sharps. Fingerings: 2, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3. Dynamics: *mf*.

34

34

*f*

*dim.*

3 2 4 2 4

38

38

*ppp*

2 3 1

42

42

2 5 1 3 4 1 4 5 2

46

46

4 1 3

*p*

50

50

*pp*

1 3 4 2 2 3

Sua