

Prayer of the Swinging Mantis

(Mx) Margaret Dylan Jones

Allegro ♩ = 116 -120

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-3) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand (R.H.) starts with a whole rest, while the left hand (L.H.) plays a sequence of notes: G4, F#4, F4, E4, D4. The second system (measures 4-6) continues the L.H. melody with notes G4, F#4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The R.H. has whole rests. The third system (measures 7-9) features a piano (*p*) dynamic in the R.H. and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in the L.H. The R.H. melody consists of G4, F#4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The L.H. has whole rests. The score includes various musical notations such as beams, slurs, and fingerings.

Compare all the notes used by the L.H. (G, F sharp, F natural etc.) with all the notes used by the R.H. Are there any notes in common? Which black notes do they use?

Study the melodic shapes in the first 4 bars, and then look at the shapes in bars 16-19. Do they have a lot in common or are they very different?

How does a Praying Mantis move? Does the rhythm of bars 1-4 suggest a Praying Mantis? What happens to the music at bar 8? What might the Praying Mantis be doing there?

An excellent way to practise this piece is to play and/or clap it as a duet. Work on feeling the beats.

Prayer of the Swinging Mantis is a List C piece in the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) piano exam syllabus for preliminary grade (current as at 2021).

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Beside the Foyle.

Beside the Foyle with My Mix.

(based on same melody as *Londonderry Air*, *Irish Tune from County Derry*, and *Danny Boy*; includes a sing-along version) mixmargaret.com/beside

Greensleeves In Love.

Greensleeves When I Was Young.

Greensleeves Marries.

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Yellow Tingle Tree (lyrics by John Joseph Jones, the composer's father). From a song cycle for choir, piano and speaking voices called *Where Eucalypts Green-Tip the Sky*. mixmargaret.com/compositions.html#wegtts

About the composer

MARGARET D. JONES studied composition with Roger Smalley at the University of Western Australia for five years beginning in 1979. She founded and conducted two choirs and played in many piano recitals and other performances.

Margaret is an androgyne. Since 2002 she has been consistently using a non-binary transgender title, Mx. In 2015 she published a [major article about Mx](#) on her website some months after Mx appeared in dictionaries. The article also has a little about the [singular they](#).

Mx Margaret Dylan Jones,¹ MusB(comp), DipEd, LTCL(pno teach), ATCL, AMusTCL, AMusA. WWCC.

¹Mx, or Mix, is the composer's title rather than Miss, Mrs, Ms or Mr. Mx is best pronounced as 'mix.'

Margaret, assumed male at birth (AMAB), is referred to as 'she' or 'they' (using the singular they).

parkerville-amphitheatre.com A brief history 1966-2001, myth busting, and a free documentary. The composer's family built and ran the amphitheatre in Hovea, Western Australia.