

Grassy Fields

I have been improvising on this piece for about 20 years and never wrote it down, so it was a little difficult to settle on a printed version. Some part of me does not want this piece to be settled in one place. It is about my two little girls running through the tall ryegrass fields that surround our home, playing hide and seek. When I play it I hear their giggles and the rhythm of their running feet. It is carefree and joyful, so please take that freedom and play this with your own creative heart.

Lever harps will find some suggestions on the back page for the two spots where there are some accidentals. These are minor changes.

Small harps will find suggestions in the score, but always feel free to take things up an octave as needed. This piece should work nicely on a 36 string lever harp.

For the left hand pattern repeated through much of the piece I use fingers 4-2 and 3-2 where it feels natural. It helps avoid fatigue to switch fingers.

In measures 81-84 I try to pulse the right hand to emphasize beats 1 and 3, but otherwise keep the right hand light so I don't wear out! The fingers do not have time to close, so I quickly rock the hand to drive the fingers and use petite articulation.

Measures 89-95 are really fun to play but tricky to read. I often extend this pattern at will. I would suggest learning the hands separately and improvise around it, feeling the syncopation and letting it wind down naturally.

When I play the gliss in m.87 I hold the top note, starting the gliss about beat 4 and accelerating with a good emphasis on the last note. I hear: "Gotcha!"



