

Collaborative Piano and the Ballet Technique Class Handout

A Presentation by Peter Douglas, D.A.
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Figure 1. Attributes of the Plié (Barre) Combination.

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/barre/barre-2-plier%C3%A9>

Barre 2 - Plié

Description of elements of a typical combination:

- A constant lyrical quality is needed (Cavalli 2001, p. 102).
- The music needs to be expressive without being overly dramatic; save this for the adagio combination (Cavalli 2001, pp. 102-103).
 - Dance steps used include:
 - Demi Plié
 - Grand Plié
 - Cambré/Port de bras
 - Sometimes a relevé or balance

Meter

triple (3/4)

Tempo

moderate - 118 bpm

Accentuations

- Smooth and connected playing with tasteful pedal
- Some stress and unstressed playing in the 2-count demi plié verses the continuous quality of a 4-count grand plié

Figure 2. Excerpt from Peter Douglas, *Anthology of Piano Music Arranged for Ballet Class*.**Notes about Notation:**

- Numbers enclosed in circles: These refer to the beginnings of “8s” in dancers’ counting. Circle 1 starts the first “8”, circle 2 starts the second “8,” and so forth. This is useful so that pianists can see how many “8s” are in the piece that I arranged.
- Each exercise begins with an introduction. The end of the introduction is marked by a double bar.
- Some combinations, such as barre 2 “pliés,” include chords for improvisation at the end of the arrangement for extra music as needed.

Barre 2

Pliés: Bethena: A Concert Waltz

Scott Joplin

arr. Peter Douglas

♩=118

1

6

12

2

18

3

2

Pliés: Bethena: A Concert Waltz

23

31

35

5

41

6

47

Pliés: Bethena: A Concert Waltz

7

Musical notation for measures 7-14. Treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass line features chords with stems pointing downwards.

8

59

Musical notation for measures 59-66. Treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The bass line features chords with stems pointing downwards.

9

65

Musical notation for measures 65-72. Treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The bass line features chords with stems pointing downwards. A text box on the right side of the staff reads "Chords for Improvisation = balance/stretching".

10

73

C G/D A7 D7 G A7/E D7 Em C

Musical notation for measures 73-80. Treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff is mostly empty, with some notes in the bass line. Chord symbols are written below the staff.

82

G/D A7 D7 G

Musical notation for measures 82-89. Treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff is mostly empty, with some notes in the bass line. Chord symbols are written above the staff.

Figure 3. Resources from Douglas, “Piano Music for the Ballet Technique Class: An Online Guide.”

Website: <https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com>

Contents:

- Provide a visual resource for the ballet pianist, collaborative piano teacher, dance teacher, etc.
- Videos of ballet teacher demonstrating the combinations
- Videos of dancers doing the dance steps along with appropriate music
- Explanation as to why this music is appropriate
- PDF of music with annotations/adjustments directly in the score

Anthology of Arranged Pieces from this Website:

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/resources/anthology-of-arranged-pieces-from-this-website>

Books About How to Play for Ballet Class:

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/resources/books>

Dissertations/Theses about How to Play for Ballet Classes:

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/resources/dissertations>

Ballet Class Music Anthologies (Sheet Music):

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/resources/sheet-music-anthologies>

Ballet Class Music Recordings and Videos for Reference:

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/resources/recordings-and-videos>

Other Useful Scores for Ballet Class Music:

<https://www.pianomusicballetguide.com/resources/useful-scores>

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