

Phong
from the Thai Elephant Orchestra

Phong's Solo

for piano

opus 29, 1 & one half minutes, October 29, 2012



Transcribed by Wade Ripka and arranged for piano by Dave Soldier
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Drawing of Phong by Millie Young, painting by Poong



This music was originally improvised by Phong, 5 years old, on the renaat. He is a member of the Thai Elephant Orchestra, a group of musical elephants living at the Thai Elephant Conversation Center near Lampang in northern Thailand. Conservationist Richard Lair and musician Dave Soldier built giant instruments for them, and they have recorded three CDs.

Phong's Solo is heard on *Elephonic Rhapsodies*, a 2004 CD by the Thai Elephant Orchestra with Richard Lair and Dave Soldier (Mulatta Records MUL009, www.mulatta.org).

The pianist is advised to listen to the original version for advice on interpretation.

Version from November 4, 2012

Phong's Solo

from the Thai Elephant Orchestra

improvised by Phong the Elephant
transcribed by Wade Ripka

arr. Dave Soldier with Richard Lair

relaxed tempo (original ~80 bpm)

grace notes are played quickly

The musical score is written for piano and bass in 4/4 time, featuring a variety of dynamics and performance instructions:

- Measures 1-4:** The piano part (treble clef) plays a melodic line with grace notes, marked *mf*. The bass part (bass clef) plays sustained chords, marked *ppp*. A note in the bass part is labeled "held but not sounded".
- Measures 5-8:** The piano part continues with a melodic line, marked *pp*. The bass part has a long rest, then enters with a melodic line marked *mf*. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the piano staff.
- Measures 9-12:** The piano part features a triplet marked "faster" and a section marked "slower". The bass part has a long rest, then enters with a melodic line marked *mp*. A *rit.* marking is present above the piano staff.
- Measures 13-16:** The piano part features a triplet marked "rubato" and a section marked "a tempo". The bass part has a long rest, then enters with a melodic line marked *mf*. A *rit.* marking is present above the piano staff.

17

p *mf*

pp *mf* *p*

21

pp

26

pp *mf*

8va

gently *dolce*