

La Desirade by Carlos Salzedo

Grade 7 pedal harp syllabus, list C

This one works as a perfect pairing with 'Chanson dans la nuit' which can be found on the Grade 6 pedal harp syllabus, List C.

Working on rhythmical and effective pedal slides:

- Check posture before starting!
- Start by working on pedal movements without playing any notes.
- Then add a note.
- Try moving the pedal with different rhythms found in the piece.
- Make sure you are plucking the string loud enough to resonate for the required length.

Pedal study:

- Put the harp into C flat major.
- Play a root position chord in both hands (an octave apart).
- Move the C and G pedal from flat to natural.
- Play the new chord.
- Move the pedals back.
- Experiment with pedal movements between playing the chords ensuring that you always have a clean sound and no pedal buzzes.

Use a metronome!

- Start slowly.
- Build it up bit by bit.

Using our nails:

- If plucking with the second finger use the thumb to pull back some of the tip of the finger to expose more nail.

Performance markings:

- Carlos Salzedo explains his unusual markings in the book, try to be strict about observing his requests.
- Make sure you don't confuse the pdlt symbol with the fingernail symbol.
- The damping symbols are just as important, the silences help make the piece exciting too.

Summary:

- Don't be scared to really pull the strings and have fun.
- Make this piece a spectacle, audiences love it!