

# The Thunderstorm

The text for “The Thunderstorm” is based on a poem by EUGENE HALL (1845-1932) and is included in its entirety below. The minor key and driving piano accompaniment of the first two sections of the piece, as well as the Optional Instrumentation (Bass Drum and Rain Stick), depict the fury of the thunderstorm described in the poetry. Perform these sections with clear consonant articulation to help convey the intensity of the storm to your audience. The third section of the piece, with its softer dynamics and lyrical accompaniment, depicts the storm subsiding, and should be performed smoothly and expressively. After a return to the minor piano accompaniment, the last piano chord features a surprise change from minor to major, which is called a Picardy third. This “happy ending” marks the storm’s departure and the conclusion of the piece.

Down the mountains darkly creeping,  
Through the woodlands wildly sweeping,  
    The storm bursts on the land.  
    The rain is pouring,  
    The wind is loudly roaring  
    In tones sublime and grand.  
Flashing, crashing, growling, grumbling,  
Rumbling, rumbling, rolling, rumbling,  
    Comes the thunderstorm.

Round and round the birds are flying,  
Loudly screaming, sharply crying;  
    They fear the falling rain.  
    The windows rattle,  
    The frightened sheep and cattle  
    Come leaping down the lane.  
Flashing, crashing, growling, grumbling,  
Rumbling, rumbling, rolling, rumbling,  
    Comes the thunderstorm.

Soon the mountain-tops glow brightly,  
And the raindrops patter lightly  
    Upon the roof o’erhead;  
    The sunbeams tender  
    Break through the clouds in splendor,  
    The thunderstorm has fled.  
Flashing, crashing, growling, grumbling,  
Rumbling, rumbling, rolling, rumbling,  
    Dies the thunderstorm.