

## **CHOPIN'S GRANDE VALSE BRILLANTE AS CARTOON MUSIC**

This orchestration of Chopin's Grande Valse Brillante, with a quote from a Schottische and a quote from Rossini's William Tell Overture, is meant as music for an animated cartoon.

Fanfare: The scene fades from black to show a beach and zooms in on three 13-year-old boys running from the shore into the lake, one of them carrying a beach ball.

Theme 1: In the lake near the shore, they are hitting the ball to each other. One of the boys, smaller and weaker than the others, keeps missing the ball.

Theme 2, beginning with repeated notes on a trumpet: They come out of the water and play tag on the beach.

Theme 1, reprise: They go back into the lake and resume playing with the ball. The stronger boys get angry with the weaker one for missing the ball and hold his head under the water for a few seconds. Unwilling to put up with such abuse, he wades out of the water.

Theme 2, reprise: He runs away from his friends.

Theme 3, played by the strings: He sees a girl of his own age dancing on the beach, and his eyes turn to hearts.

Theme 4, played by the winds: He shows off his very limited gymnastic skills, trying to impress her.

Theme 3, reprise: She ignores him and continues dancing.

Theme 5, alternating between winds and strings: He asks her to dance with him, she accepts and they dance together.

Theme 6, played by the violins, each note staccato and preceded by a grace note, accompanied by the brass: A miniature of the boy appears floating near his head and wags his finger at the boy. From the miniature's mouth there appear picture balloons illustrating the consequences of having anything to do with girls: getting razzed by his friends, enduring excessive mushiness, being dragged to the altar and finally being kept awake at night holding a crying baby.

Excerpt from a Schottische, replacing a repeat of Theme 5: The boy ignores the miniature and resumes dancing with the girl. As the music slows down, the sun sets and they part for the day.

Theme 7, played with glissandos and excessive rubato by the violin: At home in bed and asleep, the boy dreams that he's experiencing the life foretold by the miniature.

Excerpt from the William Tell Overture, replacing the transition to Theme 1: Upon awakening, he returns to the beach to play with his friends.

Theme 1 and Theme 2, reprise: He finds his friends and they resume their play. When it slows down, he finds himself looking around for the girl. When it restores the original tempo, he is steeling himself against the temptation and forcing himself to continue playing with his friends.

The first pause: He sees her waving to him.

The plucked strings and the second pause: He looks at the girl, at his friends, at the beach ball and then at the girl again.

The music resumes, getting louder and faster: He runs to the girl, with the miniature following him, wagging his finger.

Theme 1, loud and fast: The boy reaches the girl and they dance together.

Slowing down to the original speed: The sun sets and the full moon rises.

Dialogue between the saxophone and the xylophone: He kisses the girl. The miniature raps him on the head seven times (when the xylophone plays) and the boy pushes him away.

The violin takes over the tune: The girl grabs the miniature and she and the boy drive the miniature into the sand head first like a peg.

The woodwinds and plucked strings play, getting faster and softer: The boy and the girl run away hand in hand until they are no longer visible in the moonlight.

The final five chords: The miniature pops his head out of the sand and looks around. Seeing that he has lost the boy, he jumps up and down in frustration three times and then throws himself on his belly onto the sand and beats the sand with his fists as the scene fades to black.