

Staircase Sonata

Walking up the stairs, jumping down

Little kids have a fascination with seeing how many steps they can jump down. They climb up three and jump, then try four, then five... Hopefully with no painful results. This little piece climbs up the stairs, then tries different intervals of jumps: three steps, four, five, six. A legato connection portrays the leap through the air, a strong accent indicates the landing at the bottom.

Skipping up the stairs two at a time

All of us know the feelings of leaping up the stairs two at a time when we're feeling energetic or just in a hurry, but we usually go down one at a time, just at a faster pace. This movement skips up the stairs, then careens down in stepwise motion. Legato descents contrast the staccato leaps on the way up, and the dynamics reflect the up and down motion.

Sliding down the stairs

When I was growing up, our family has a wooden slide that we could prop up on the staircase, which provided hours of entertainment for energetic little bodies. We would climb up the stairs to the top of the ladder, slide down and thump at the bottom, then climb back up and do it again. When the slide got slow, we would grab some wax paper, wax the slide, and then slide down faster than before!

Walking Up The Stairs, Jumping Down

Allegro

Robyn Wells McDonnell

Piano

f

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

3 1

2

4

mf

5 4 3 2

1 3 2 1

4

5

p

4 2 5 2

1 5

r.h. *sfz*

mf

l.h.

ff