

# étude IV

## Matthew Kaplan

### Notes:

- This is an étude I wrote this 2023 holiday season so in the melody you will hear hints of “O Tannenbaum” throughout. However, this season I got stuck with the flu so it’s not the most straightforward realization of it that I could’ve done. Hence the *Poco Pesante* tempo marking which I thought was funny for a holiday tune but also thought it brought about an interesting setting for the melody.
- The étude will mostly work through your ability to sustain the melody with lots of vibrato over music that doesn’t move too fast. Additionally, I chose more contemporary jazz harmonies which makes for some fun stretches and positions for the left hand fingers.
- The arpeggio patterns that open the piece and that are found midway shouldn’t be as intimidating as they seem. If you push through the reading you’ll find they flow quite nicely. I didn’t want to write material that would prove more difficult than the original intentions of the étude but I also wanted some contrasting material. In this case, something dramatic!
- When you play through the main theme at measures 3, 13, and 28, there is not much going on in the accompaniment. This was intentional to make the harmony stand out a bit. However, to really make the tune effective much vibrato is recommended not just on the melody but on the chords as well. Consult with your teacher about this effect but generally while you hold the chord I like to think of moving the strings in a small circular motion guided by the shoulder, elbow, and wrist.
- If the chord in m.31 proves too cumbersome, you can play it in the third position as well. It’s easier on the fingers but you will introduce a shift which will kill the legato effect by keeping it in the seventh position.



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## Unfolding

Musical staff for 'Unfolding' in 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with fingerings (a, m, i) and accents. It features three triplet patterns. The dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. A 4/4 time signature is indicated at the end of the staff.

Musical staff for 'Poco Pesante' in 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 80$ . The staff contains a bass line with chords and fingerings (V, 4, 3, 0, 4). The dynamic is *mp*. Roman numerals V, VIII, and III are placed above the staff.

Musical staff for 'Poco Pesante' in 4/4 time. The dynamic is *mf*. The staff contains a bass line with chords and fingerings (4, 3, 0, 4). The dynamic *poco rit.* is indicated at the end of the staff.

Musical staff for 'Unfolding' in 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with fingerings (a, m, i) and accents. It features three triplet patterns. The dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. A 4/4 time signature is indicated at the end of the staff.

Musical staff for 'Poco Pesante' in 4/4 time. The staff contains a bass line with chords and fingerings (3, 6). The dynamic is *mp*.

Musical staff for 'Poco Pesante' in 4/4 time. The staff contains a bass line with chords and fingerings (4, 3, 2, 1, 0). The dynamic is *mf*.

Musical staff for 'Unfolding' in 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with fingerings (a, m, i) and accents. It features sixteenth-note patterns with fingerings (4, 3, 2, 1, 0). The dynamics range from *mf* to *accel.*. Roman numeral XII is placed above the staff.

VI

22

*f* accel. *p* *sfz*

Recitativo Calmo

24

*mf* ④ ⑤ ④ ③ ③ ④

V VI VII

28

*p* *pp*