

## **More About THREE BAGATELLES**

The word bagatelle means "trifle," and in music it is most often used as a title for a very short, uncomplicated piece of piano music. The best known bagatelles in the piano literature are those of Beethoven, although most of those are not what I would call "trifles!"

**Three Bagatelles** came together when I was looking through some old unused sketches and found two very brief, unrelated ideas for solo piano. Both seemed fairly complete on one page, and rather than develop them into longer pieces, I decided to name them "bagatelles" and make them available as they stood.

I quickly wrote one more to make a set of three very short (single page) pieces that still takes under two minutes to play. Then I came up with fanciful subtitles to give them a little character:

- 1. Ants' Dance**
- 2. Desert Mirage**
- 3. Rat Race**

The outer movements are quick, frantic bookends to a quasi-minimalistic, peaceful center piece.