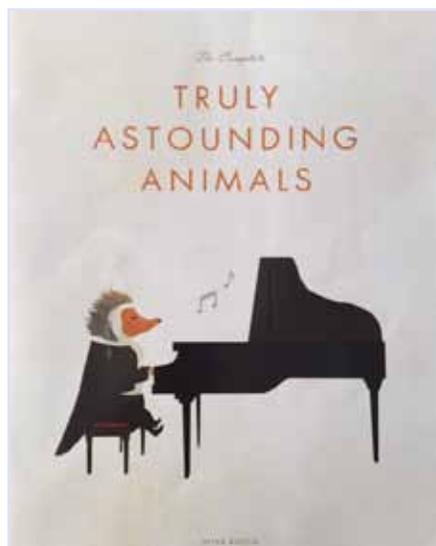


# New Publications

BY LISA NG



**Title: Truly Astounding Animals (Piano)**  
**Composer: Peter Rudzik**  
**Publisher: Lakeview Publishing**  
**Available at [sheetmusicplus.com](http://sheetmusicplus.com)**

**P**eter Rudzik, award-winning pianist in his native Poland and scholarship recipient from the Chopin Society in Warsaw in 1984 has made his appearances on national television and radio and in the National Piano Festival in 1987. After receiving his Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Academy of Music in Gdansk, Rudzik took post-graduate studies at the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen, Demark, under the instruction of Jose Ribera. In 1990, he moved to Canada, and his love of teaching has led him to a teaching position in Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary.

Two years ago, after searching in vain for some piano duet variations based on a well-known theme; Rudzik started creating his own compositions, which has resulted in his new album—*Truly Astounding Animals*.

*Truly Astounding Animals* is a collection of twelve fun and humorous pieces, with a touch of modern harmonies. In each piece, Rudzik successfully captured the character of each animal depicted in the title. The collection is filled with interesting harmonies and technical challenges suitable for all levels from Grades 2 to 9.

“Happy Grasshopper” (Grade 2–3), for example, is one of the shortest pieces filled with imaginative rhythm. The lively and bouncy character established by a variety of

articulations reflects the free and independent nature of a grasshopper. With a melody tinged with chromaticism, this piece reinforces the concept of half-step notation in early reading.

“Orange Striped Zebra” and “Dancing Penguins” (Grade 4) are two sweet little pieces for children. “Orange Striped Zebra”, with a contrasted expressive middle section, asks for well-rounded technique and attention in legato playing. “Dancing Penguins”, with its waltz-base accompaniment provides an opportunity for early studies of Romantic style.

The humour continues in “Boastful Kangaroo”, “Silly Little Squirrel” and “March of the Centipedes” (Grade 5–6), in which Rudzik uses interesting rhythmic patterns to boost students’ imagination in picturing the character of the animals. While the “Boastful Kangaroo” presents challenges for the LH that plays most of the melody in leaps, the “March of the Centipedes” is based on an easy march pattern with a mischievous-sounding theme.

The mysterious mood presented in “Hedgehog at Night” and the goofy theme in “Annoying Fly” (Grade 6-7) guarantee lots of excitement for adventurous students. While “Hedgehog at Night” requires a perfect legato tone with independent movement on each hand, “Annoying Fly” provides training on finger agility. These pieces, as Rudzik puts it, are “great for recitals and festivals”.

In the advanced levels (Grade 8–9), “Tarantula’s Tarantella” offers a challenge in fast playing that requires detailed attention to a variety of articulations; “Busy Woodpecker” in rondo form with its truly “pecking” theme accompanied by fast alberti bass promises fulfillment for advanced students. Other pieces, such as “Thoughtful Rhino” in its melancholic style, and “Whale Song” with its lyricism, unresolved harmonies and expressive theme, would appeal to those who prefer slow performance.

Peter Rudzik has also written other advanced level pieces (Grade 10) collected in the album entitled, *Wild Rose Suite*. His composition, “Hot Springs”, was featured in the International Piano magazine as a selection for recording contest. Both of Peter Rudzik’s albums—*Truly Astounding Animals* and *Wild Rose Suite* are available on [sheetmusicplus.com](http://sheetmusicplus.com) and are available as digital downloads on the site or for listening online.