

Example 91: *A Little Joke* by Dmitri Kabalevsky.
From *Solo Repertoire & Reading Preliminaries*
II-A, Volume 3.

A Little Joke
Dmitri Kabalevsky, Op. 27, No. 13
(1904 - 1907)

Vivace leggiero

The frowns

All slurs are easily taught as *smiles* drawn by the wrist. Kabalevsky's *A Little Joke* in example 91 is made up of descending pentachordal scales in the right hand and ascending ones in the left. Thus the right wrist *draws smiles from right to left* and the left wrist *draws smiles from left to right*.

Smiles are the bottom portions of circles and can be easily substituted by the top part of the circle, or *frowns*. Thus the pentachordal slurs in Kabalevsky's *A Little Joke* can be played with *frowns* drawn by the wrists:



Right wrist: *from right to left*.

Left wrist: *from left to right*.

Like the *smiles*, *frowns* can vary in size and shape. And at the end of each *frown* the hand must relax.

Looping staccato and detached tones

Shaping tones into phrases is not limited to *legato* lines. Detached and *staccato* notes should be similarly shaped. Example 92, *...And It Came Tumbling Down!* of N. Jane Tan shows *staccatos* in measure 1's left hand which are taken over by right hand in the next measure. To find the wrists' direction, simply substitute the *staccatos* with two-note slurs. The results are left to right *smiles* for both the left and right wrists. Now play the *staccatos* but continue to draw the left to right *smiles* with the wrists. Like in playing *legato* lines, *frowns* can again be used instead of *smiles*. Connecting *staccato* or detached tones into phrases and shapes is fondly referred to by *WPP* teachers and students as *looping*. And again, students' hands must relax after every playing motion.

...And It Came Tumbling Down!
Rapidly

N. Jane Tan

Example 92: *...And It Came Tumbling Down...!* by N. Jane Tan. From *Recital Etudes & Fingers Plus II-B*