

js

James Stephenson

Score

Drunk With Fire  
*for piano*

*By James M. Stephenson*



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## PIANO

*Written for "the Bagatelle Project" - a concept created by the International Beethoven Project for their 2011 Beethoven Festival, where each of more than 20 bagatelles would be based on Beethoven's famous "Ode to Joy" tune - "Drunk with Fire" was inspired not only by the ubiquitous melody, but also by the (an) adaptation of Schiller's text.*

*Three phrases caught my attention almost immediately:  
"drunk with fire"... (your) "magic reunites"... (whoever) "must creep tearfully away from this band!"*

*The first two bars consist of a flurry of arpeggiated notes, which represent the symphonies Beethoven had to create before getting to his masterful 9th (each arpeggio harmonizes the key of each of the first 8 symphonies).  
Thereafter, the music is "drunk with fire" (not in an alcohol-related sense, but rather in the metaphysical state of energy and euphoria).*

*Though not necessarily to be recognized in the forefront, arpeggiated notes spell out the tune in the midst of the activity, intermittently interrupted by "magical" arpeggios which (re)-"unite" the sections of the 2-minute work.*

*I was really most taken with the very evocative phrase: whoever "must creep tearfully away from this band"  
Since Beethoven himself set a variation of the "Ode to Joy" tune in the form of a Turkish march, I took the opportunity to both use a Turkish scale (m. 49) and borrow snippets of his setting (RH 77-87). Also borrowed (m. 69) from Maestro Beethoven is a reference to a very famous moment in the finale of the symphony (one of my favorites),  
where he makes a stunning and instant leap from A to F Major.*

*Lastly, I knew I wanted to end the piece quietly, not only as a reference to "creeping away", but as a symbolic reference to his gradual loss of hearing, before finally ending the piece in the key of the 9th symphony, D minor.*

PIANO

# DRUNK WITH FIRE

As fast as possible

JAMES M. STEPHENSON

8va----- loco

as soft as possible

8va----- loco

w/ pedal,  
but maintain clarity

(♩=♩) *sempre*

3

6

8

*f*

*pp*

Musical score for "DRUNK WITH FIRE", starting at measure 10. The score is written for piano in 7/8 time. It features a complex melodic line in the right hand with frequent sixteenth-note runs and sixteenth-note chords, often marked with a '6' above the staff. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *pp* (pianissimo), *f sub pp* (fortissimo sub pianissimo), and *sub f* (sub fortissimo). The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves. A large, diagonal watermark reading "COMPOSERJIM.COM" is overlaid across the entire page.

10 *f* *pp*

12 *f sub pp*

14 *f sub pp*

16 *f sub pp* *sub f*

18

*pp* *f* *p*

21

*p* *mf* *p*

24

*p* *mf* *f*

27

*p* *mf* *p*