This piece is a modern piano arrangement of a traditional English song expressing a poacher’s delight in his illicit activity. The song was first published in the late 18th century, and the first verse and refrain read:

When I was bound apprentice, in famous Lincolnshire,
Full well I served my master for more than seven year,
Till I took up to poaching, as you shall quickly hear;

Oh! ’tis my delight on a shining night in the season of the year.

Note that the first two left-hand notes are part of the melody, as shown by the dotted lines in bb. 2 and 14. This arrangement builds up to a pause chord at the start of the refrain (b. 12). Slowing down at b. 17 might suggest the poacher being more stealthy as the gamekeeper approaches, and then managing to escape after the pause in b. 18.
This is one of Handel’s earliest keyboard pieces, composed around 1705 when he was only 20 and living in the north German city of Hamburg. There he played violin, and later harpsichord, in the Hamburg Opera. At that time, too, he composed keyboard pieces, arias, cantatas, and his first opera, *Almira*.

*Impertinence* is written in the style of a bourrée, a lively French dance in duple time. Like much French keyboard music of the time, it is a character-piece with a fanciful title. The impudent behaviour, referred to by the title, might be reflected in the style of performance. In this edition, the tempo mark, and all slurs, staccatos and dynamics are editorial suggestions only. The staccatos in b. 7 (except that of the trilled note, for which see the realization above the stave) might be played as crotchet plus crotchet rest.


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Moody Prawn Blues

Franklyn Gellnick
(born 1968)

Swinging moodily \( \frac{\text{d}}{ \text{e} } = 112 \) (\( \text{mf} \))

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