

SONATINA

Seán Doherty
2022

Two Pianos

PROGRAMME NOTE

- I. Prelude and Fugue
- II. Variations
- III. Impromptu

This piece is composed as a companion to Joan Trimble's Sonatina. Trimble (1915–2000) was born in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. She formed a piano duo with her sister, Valerie, with whom she enjoyed a highly successful professional partnership for over thirty years. Joan's reputation as a composer was cemented by the publication of her Sonatina for Two Pianos (1940). This new Sonatina also explores neo-classical genres and gestures. It is written in memory of my brother, Brendan.

PERFORMANCE NOTE

Two pianos should be facing each other and interlocked.

Boxed text indicates gestures and actions.

Sonatina

I. Prelude and Fugue

SEÁN DOHERTY

Allegretto
♩=120

I
f playful
trem. non trem.
ff

II
f playful
trem. non trem.
ff

10
I
mp *mf*
3 3 3

II
mp *mf*
3 3 3

14
I
f
3 3 3

II
f
3 3 3

18

I

ff

II

ff

24

I

fff

trem.

ppp

f

pp

II

fff

trem.

ppp

f

30

I

ff

p

fff

p sub.

II

trem.

trem.

trem.

pp

ff

p

fff

p sub.

f m.s. sempre

35

I

f > m.d. sempre

II

m.s. sempre

f > m.d. sempre

42

I

II

white-key clusters with fists
(approximate pitches)

(m.s.)

49

ff

sim.

(m.d.)

black-key clusters with fists
(approximate pitches)

(m.s.)

ff

sim.

(m.d.)

53

cresc.

cresc.

white-key clusters with forearms

56

I

fff

black-key clusters with forearms

II

fff

60

I

II

Presto

64 ♩ = 160

I *f*

I *mp*

II *f*

I *f sub.*

II *mp* *mf sub.*

I *mf*

II *f*

I *mp cresc.*

II *mp cresc.*

I *mf* *f sub.*

II *mf*

94

I

II

f sub.

99

I

II

ff

ff

104

I

II

p

f sub.

p

f sub.

109

I

II

mf

113

I

II

f

mf

118

I *mp*

II *mp*

123

I *f* *p*

II *f* *p*

8va *loco*

128

I *f sub.* *8vb*

II *f sub.* *8vb*

132

I *(8) loco* *p sub.*

II *(8) loco* *p sub.*

136

I *f*

II *f*

140

ff

f

144

ff

ff

147

ff

150

ff

8vb

Dramatic synchronised page turn

153

(8)

8vb

V.S.

V.S.

155 *loco*

I

II

158

I

II

161

I

II

cresc.
Red.

cresc.
Red.

*

164

I

II

*

*

168

I

ff

senza Red.

8va

II

ff

senza Red.

3

3

173

I

II

ff

ff

(8)

176

I

II

3

3

(8)

180

I

II

loco

(8)

184

I

II

186

I

II

188

I

II

8va

loco

pitch clusters with palms,¹³
approx. pitches

191

I

II

195

I

II

m.s. sopra m.d. m.s. sotto m.d.

8va

m.d. sotto m.s. m.d. sopra m.s.

8vb

199 (8)

I

II

loco sopra

loco sotto

key clusters with forearm,
approx. pitches

I collapses onto keyboard,
head falls into elbows

202

8vb
8va

ffff

206

pp

Independent repetition for duration of wavy line
Clusters with wrists, approx. pitches, keep forearms on keys

208

pp

p

3

211

Musical score for measures 211-215. Part I consists of a tremolo line in the bass clef. Part II has a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Dynamics include *ff* and *fff*.

I raises head to look at II.
They make eye contact.

I shakes head.
II walks (via their left) to I and stands at their right side.
I looks up at II and nods.
II turns the page for I.

216

Musical score for measures 216-220. Part I has a tremolo line in the bass clef. Part II has a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.

Piano duet

Adagio

♩ = 60

loco (m.d.)

II plays standing up

I *p semplice*

II *pp semplice*

I *pp semplice*

II *pp semplice*

II sits

I *pp*

II *pp*

Use LH freely

I *pp*

II *pp*

I *pp*

II *p*

246

I

II

249

I

II

252

I

II

255

molto rit.

I

II

257

I stands

I

II

*

II. Variations

I closes eyes and walks to other piano over the duration of mov. II.
Five steps, one with each variation.

Var. 1

Presto ♩ = 160

The musical score for Variation 1 is presented in five systems, each with a piano (II) and bass clef staff. The tempo is marked 'Presto' with a quarter note equal to 160 beats per minute. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score includes the following elements:

- System 1 (Measures 1-8):** Starts with a forte fortissimo (*fff*) dynamic. The piano staff features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and accents. A 'Sost. Ped.' instruction is placed below the piano staff. The bass staff has rests followed by a triplet of chords in measures 7-8.
- System 2 (Measures 9-15):** The piano staff continues with triplets and accents. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to forte fortissimo (*fff*). The bass staff has rests followed by triplets of chords.
- System 3 (Measures 16-24):** The piano staff has rests. The bass staff begins with a triplet of chords in measure 16, followed by a dynamic shift from *p* to *fff*.
- System 4 (Measures 25-31):** The piano staff features triplets and accents. Dynamics range from *p* to *fff*. The bass staff has rests followed by triplets of chords.
- System 5 (Measures 32-38):** The piano staff has rests. The bass staff begins with a *rit.* (ritardando) instruction. The system concludes with a final chord in the bass staff.

Var. 2

Allegro ♩ = 120

39 white-note clusters with knuckles

II

fffff espressivissimo

8^{vb}

senza Sost. Ped.

43

(8)

47

(8) - J

loco

51

8^{vb}

Var. 3

ord.
g^{ra}-----|

55 *f agitato* *p* *loco*

(8)-----|

60 *loco* *mp cresc.*

65 *mf cresc.*

poco accel.-----|

69 *f cresc.*

A tempo *rit.*-----|

73 *ff*

Var. 4

Lento ♩ = 60

rit.

78

p

ppp

Var. 5

Grave ♩ = 50

fold arms and silently depress
black-key clusters with forearms

II lays cheek
on piano lid,
facing audience,
as if sleeping.

86

f

Pedal only

3

Perusal Copy
Not for Performance

Two pianos

III. Impromptu

I opens eyes and plays standing

Adagio

♩ = 60 15^{ma}

I *pp semplice, rubato*

II

II opens eyes

I *non rubato*

II

loco

I *p*

II *p*

pp semplice

Both assume normal playing positions

I *cresc.*

II *cresc.*

trem.

non trem.

I *mp*

II *mp*

trem.

24

p *espress. con rubato*

m.s.

sim.

mp

28

1. 2.

(mp)

3 3 3

Knock with
knuckles on lid

1. 2.

f

32

1. 2.

p

1. 2.

38

1.

(p) *ppp*

1.

Andante

♩ = 80

42

2.

I

(ppp)

p trem.

p trem.

p trem.

Red.

II

2.

ppp trem.

p trem.

Red.

50

m.s. sempre

I

p trem.

ppp

m.d. sempre

II

p trem.

m.s. sempre

m.d. sempre

57

I

II

Detailed description: This system contains measures 57 through 61. It features two piano parts, labeled I and II. Each part has a treble and a bass staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music consists of chords and single notes, with some notes marked with accents. A large watermark is visible across the page.

62

(m.s.)

I

(m.d.)

II

(m.s.)

(m.d.)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 through 65. It features two piano parts, labeled I and II. Each part has a treble and a bass staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music consists of chords and single notes, with some notes marked with accents. Performance markings include '(m.s.)' and '(m.d.)'. A large watermark is visible across the page.

66

I

(m.s.) *sim.*

(m.d.)

II

(m.s.) *sim.*

(m.d.)

70

I

cresc.

II

cresc.

73

I *mf dolce*

II *mf*

Turn page early

78

I

II

81

I

81

82

83

84

85

86

Detailed description: This system contains measures 81 through 86. The upper staff (treble clef) is mostly empty, with a few notes at the beginning. The lower staff (bass clef) contains a series of chords, each marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The chords are sustained across the measures.

II

mf dolce

81

82

83

84

85

86

Detailed description: This system contains measures 81 through 86. The upper staff (treble clef) features a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by quarter notes, and ending with a half note. The lower staff (bass clef) features a complex accompaniment with many notes, including triplets and slurs. The dynamic marking *mf dolce* is present at the start.

87

I

mp cresc.

87

88

89

90

91

92

Detailed description: This system contains measures 87 through 92. The upper staff (treble clef) has a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by quarter notes, and ending with a half note. The lower staff (bass clef) has a series of chords, each marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) and crescendo (*cresc.*) dynamic. The chords are sustained across the measures.

II

f

mp cresc.

87

88

89

90

91

92

Detailed description: This system contains measures 87 through 92. The upper staff (treble clef) features a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by quarter notes, and ending with a half note. The lower staff (bass clef) features a complex accompaniment with many notes, including triplets and slurs. The dynamic marking *f* is present at the start, and *mp cresc.* is present later in the system.

accel. . .

93

I
mf espress.

II
mf espress.

accel.

Moderato

$\text{♩} = 100$

101

I
f playful

II
f playful

106

trem.

ff

3

5

silently depress keys

Sost. Ped. till end

trem.

ff

non trem.

3

113

3

pp

f

118

ff

fff