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Music for 4 Pianists and 1 Man

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Music for 4 Pianists and 1 Man

Cameron Smith

Instrumentation: 4 Grand Pianos

Duration: approx. 15 min

Program Notes:

This is a performance piece, written to exemplify the life of a dying man. It begins with this single man on the stage, and he plays the entire piece by himself. The second pianist will then join him and the two of them will play the entire piece by themselves, with an added solo for the second pianist. This same pattern continues with the third pianist entering on the third repeat- he also receives an added solo. The fourth pianist enters for the final repeat, with their additional solo, and brings all the pianists together for a final, conclusive ending. The pianists fade out of this ending, and eventually exit the stage in their opposite order of entrance, until the first pianist is left alone once again.

Each pianist represents one of the old man's past selves. Their entrances signify that he is remembering his life. As the piece progresses, and the sound changes, it becomes apparent that the man is not complete without all stages of himself. Furthermore, his life is beautiful and harmonious because he has lived fully and experienced all he was offered, although his death is sad, his life was not devoid of purpose. This piece is meant to invoke reflection in its audience. It's asking us all how we will be remembered, and encouraging us to appreciate our beautiful, individual journeys.

Performance Notes:

Pianist 1 represents an elderly man, Pianist 2 represents this same man in his 40s, Pianist 3 his mid 20s, and Pianist 4 his youth. While finding performers in these age ranges is ideal, it is not necessary if the program note is provided at the performance.

Pianist 1 should be seated in the middle right of the stage, Pianist 2 sits on his left, Pianist 3 is seated farthest right, and Pianist 4 sits on the far left.

All pianists should use the sostenuto pedal sparingly.

Tacet ossia staves are given under the first system of each page for the clarity of the reader and to clearly signify which pianists are playing at every point in the piece.

Roman numerals I-IV indicate when each pianist enters.

Each performer should enter the stage with enough time to be comfortably seated before they play, but should not enter before the pianist before them.

The piece repeats four times, beginning with the first pianist and adding the next additional pianist with every repeat, until all four of them are joined for the final repeat.

There is also an additional ending after the fourth repeat and solos for each performer upon their first entrance, everything aside from these remains the same upon each repeat.

The concert score is written without repeats, but the individual pianists may choose to read from the concert score or a reduced part with repeats.

Although each pianist fades out of the last repeat at separate times, they should remain seated until indicated in the score to exit the stage.

Pianists exit in the opposite order of entry.

Music for 4 Pianists and 1 Man

Cameron Smith
(2020)

I

Not too fast ♩=76

Piano 1

Piano 2
Piano 3
Piano 4

Piano 1

Piano 1

Piano 1

33

sf

pp

p

Piano 2 *Tacet*

Piano 3 *Tacet*

Piano 4 *Tacet*

==

Piano 1

44

mp

mf

==

Piano 1

56

f

p

ff

p

rit.

==

II

68

Piano 1

p

Piano 2

mp

Tacet

Piano 3

Tacet

Piano 4

73

Piano 1

mp

Piano 2

mf

79

Piano 1

Piano 2

Tacet

Piano 3

Tacet

Piano 4

85

Piano 1

Piano 2

p *mp* *mf* *f* *sf*

Piano 1 *mp*

Piano 2 *mp*

Piano 3 Tacet

Piano 4 Tacet

Piano 1 *f*

Piano 2 *f* freely *p*

117

Piano 1

pp

Piano 2

pp

p

Tacet

Piano 3

Tacet

Piano 4

123

Piano 1

mp

Piano 2

mp

129

Piano 1

mf

Piano 2

mf

Tacet

Piano 3

Tacet

Piano 4

134

Piano 1

f

Piano 2

f

140

Piano 1

p

ff

p

rit.

Piano 2

p

f

Tacet

Piano 3

Tacet

Piano 4

III

147

Piano 1

p

Piano 2

p

9

Piano 3

pp

6

151

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

Tacet

156

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

Tacet

160

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

Tacet

164

Piano 1

p *mp* *mf* *f* *sfz*

Piano 2

p *mp* *mf* *f* *sfz*

Piano 3

p *mp* *mf* *f* *sfz*

Piano 4

Tacet

Piano 1

171

mp

Piano 2

mp

Piano 3

mp

2

2

2

2

Piano 4

Tacet

179

Piano 1

f

Piano 2

f

Piano 3

freely

f

mp

3

Piano 4

Tacet

191

Piano 1

pp

Piano 2

pp

Piano 3

pp

Piano 4

Tacet

200

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

Tacet

206

Piano 1

mf

3

Piano 2

mf

6

Piano 3

mf

3

Piano 4

Tacet

211

Piano 1

3

f

Piano 2

6

f

Piano 3

3

f

Piano 4

Tacet

216

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

Tacet

The image shows a musical score for four pianos, numbered 216. The score is divided into four systems, each for a different piano. Piano 1 (top system) has a treble and bass clef and plays chords. Piano 2 (second system) has a treble and bass clef and plays sixteenth-note runs with a '6' fingering. Piano 3 (third system) has a treble and bass clef and plays eighth-note runs. Piano 4 (bottom system) has a bass clef and is marked 'Tacet'. The score includes a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking in the final measure of each system.

220

Piano 1

ff *p* rit.

Piano 2

f

Piano 3

f

Piano 4

Tacet

IV

226

Piano 1

p

Piano 2

mp

9

Piano 3

pp

6

Piano 4

p

svv

24 230

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

(8)

3

Piano 1

Musical score for Piano 1, measures 234-238. The score is written in treble and bass clefs. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble staff at the beginning, followed by a melodic line with a slur. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

Piano 2

Musical score for Piano 2, measures 234-238. The score is written in treble and bass clefs. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble staff, followed by a melodic line with a slur. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The dynamic marking *mf* is present. There are also some chord diagrams below the bass staff.

Piano 3

Musical score for Piano 3, measures 234-238. The score is written in treble and bass clefs. It features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern in the treble staff, with a dynamic marking *mf*. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. There are also some chord diagrams below the bass staff.

Piano 4

Musical score for Piano 4, measures 234-238. The score is written in treble and bass clefs. It features a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. The dynamic marking *mf* is present. A dashed line with the number (8) is above the treble staff.

26 238

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

This musical score is for four pianos (Piano 1 to Piano 4) across measures 238 to 241. The score is written in a system with four staves. Piano 1 (top staff) features a melodic line in the right hand with a long slur and a steady bass line in the left hand. Piano 2 (second staff) has a complex melodic line in the right hand with many slurs and a bass line that includes some chords. Piano 3 (third staff) consists of two staves with dense, rhythmic sixteenth-note patterns in both hands, with a '6' marking below each measure. Piano 4 (bottom staff) is mostly silent, with some chords in the right hand and rests in the left hand. The key signature changes from two sharps (F# and C#) to one flat (F) between measures 238 and 239. Measure numbers 238, 239, 240, and 241 are indicated at the top of the system.

Piano 1

Musical score for Piano 1, measures 242-247. The score is written in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. It features a series of chords and single notes. Dynamic markings include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. There are some performance instructions like *sc* and *** in the bass line.

Piano 2

Musical score for Piano 2, measures 242-247. The score is written in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. It features a complex melodic line with many sixteenth notes and some sixteenth-note chords. Dynamic markings include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. There are some performance instructions like *sc* and *** in the bass line.

Piano 3

Musical score for Piano 3, measures 242-247. The score is written in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. It features a melodic line with many triplets. Dynamic markings include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. There are some performance instructions like *sc* and *** in the bass line.

Piano 4

Musical score for Piano 4, measures 242-247. The score is written in a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. It features a series of chords and single notes. Dynamic markings include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. There is a circled number (8) in the first measure of the treble line.

28 247

Piano 1

f *fp* *mp*

Piano 2

f *fp* *mp*

Piano 3

f *fp* *mp*

(8)

Piano 4

f *fp* *mp*

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

30 265

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

The image shows a musical score for four pianos, labeled Piano 1 through Piano 4. The score is divided into two measures, 265 and 266. The time signature is 3/4. Piano 1 has a treble clef and a whole rest in measure 265, followed by a half note chord in measure 266. Piano 2 has a treble clef and a whole rest in measure 265, followed by a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 266. Piano 3 has a treble clef and a whole rest in measure 265, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in measure 266. Piano 4 has a treble clef and a whole rest in measure 265, followed by a half note chord in measure 266. The dynamics are *pp* for Piano 1, *pp* for Piano 2, *ppp* for Piano 3, and *p* for Piano 4. The score is written in black ink on a white background.

pp

pp

ppp

p

Sva

Piano 1

Musical score for Piano 1, measures 277-31. The score consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features chords and melodic lines with some notes tied across measures. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in measure 279.

Piano 2

Musical score for Piano 2, measures 277-31. The score consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a continuous eighth-note pattern with sixteenth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in measure 279.

Piano 3

Musical score for Piano 3, measures 277-31. The score consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a continuous eighth-note pattern with triplets. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in measure 279.

Piano 4

Musical score for Piano 4, measures 277-31. The score consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features chords and melodic lines with triplets. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in measure 279. A circled number (8) is written above the first measure.

32 283

Piano 1

mp *mf*

Piano 2

mp *mf*

Piano 3

mp *mf*

Piano 4

(8)

mp *mf*

288 33

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for four pianos. Piano 1 (top) is in treble clef and contains mostly rests, with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of the system. Piano 2 consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with sixteenth-note patterns, some marked with a '6'. Piano 3 also has two staves (treble and bass clefs) with eighth-note chords, many marked with a '3'. Piano 4 (bottom) is in treble clef and features dotted half notes, with the first measure marked with '(8)'. The page number '288' is at the top left and '33' is at the top right.

34 293

Piano 1

Piano 2

Piano 3

Piano 4

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

no ped.

(8)

3 3 3

3

36 305

Piano 1

mp

Piano 2

mp

Piano 3

mp

Piano 4

Piano 1

310 *p* 37

Piano 2

310 *p* 37

Piano 3

Piano 4

