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Seven Diatonic Preludes (2011)

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Seven Diatonic Preludes

The first three pieces and concept of *Seven Diatonic Preludes*, using only the white notes of the piano, from a single note through to all seven pitches, date from 2007, with the set completed in 2011.

One note, C – Solitary is a piece purely using the note C, followed by **Two notes, C and D – Not alone anymore....**

Three notes – Call was inspired by Albanian folk music and the calls sent across mountains between remote communities.

Four Notes – Gigue pays homage to Baroque giges.

Five Notes – Waltz is a set variations on an original melody.

Six Notes – Improvisation juxtaposes clusters of six white notes against a soloistic right hand, with material developed in free form.

Seven Notes – Poem is not quite a haiku, which is traditionally set in 5-7-5 syllables: this piece has two bars of 5/4 followed by one 7/4. Quartal harmonies open the work, before the melody enters in the lower register. Charles Griffes' *Fountains of the Aqua Paola* inspired the genesis of the piece. The composer wrote words for the melody, which are only to be reflected upon and not sung:

*In the meadow grows
Tulips, irises
Over time they bloom and die*

The second melody enters in full tertial harmonies, using just the white notes of the keyboard, accompanied by sweeping five note groupings. After some development, both melodies are combined, with octave figuration becoming more complex. The opening melody in 5/8 octaves brings the piece to a rousing conclusion.

Seven Diatonic Preludes: One Note, C

On my own

Kirsten Johnson

♩ 80

mf

Ped. 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} * 8^{vb} no pedal

7

Ped. Ped. Ped. * no pedal

(8)

12

mp *mf* *cresc.* *ff*

15^{ma} loco 8^{va} 15^{ma} loco 8^{va}

m.d. m.g. m.d. m.g. m.d. m.g. m.d. m.g.

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. keep pedal through

16

f

2 1 5 1 2 1 5 3

18 (15)

cresc.

3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1

21 (15)

ff *dim.*

23 (15)

pp *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

8^{va} 8^{vb}

Ped.

Seven Diatonic Preludes: Two Notes, C and D

Not alone

1 ♩ = 100

mp

no pedal

8

8va

14

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

m.d.

m.g.

Ped. *keep pedal down*

19

cresc.

22

8va

8va

8va

m.g.

6
24

8^{va}---|
mf mp
legato
8^{vb}---|

28

m.g.
m.d.
(8)---| 8^{vb} 8^{vb} 5

33

p 3 3 3 3 *pp* *p* 3
2/3
(8)---| una corda

38

mp 3 *f* 3 3
8^{vb} *mf*

43 *tre corde*

mp
(8)---|

47 *chime* 8^{va}

mf 8^{va}
dim. *rall.* *pp*
(8)---|

Seven Diatonic Preludes: Three Notes, C, D and E

"Call"

♩ 72
1 Shape expressively

The score consists of five systems of piano music. Each system has a treble and bass clef staff. The first system (measures 1-4) is in 4/4 time, with dynamics *mf* and *p* alternating. Pedal marks (Ped. *) are placed below the bass staff. The second system (measures 5-8) starts in 3/4 time, then changes to 4/4, then 3/4, and finally 4/4. Pedal marks (Ped. *) are present. The third system (measures 9-10) is in 4/4 time, with the instruction *legato* above the treble staff. The fourth system (measures 11-14) is in 4/4 time, with *cresc.* above the treble staff and *mf* above the bass staff. Pedal marks (Ped.) are present. The fifth system (measures 15-18) starts in 4/4 time, then changes to 2/4, then 4/4, and finally 3/4. Dynamics *f*, *ff*, *mf*, and *mp* are indicated. Pedal marks (Ped.) are present. A dashed line labeled *8va* spans measures 15-16, and another dashed line labeled *8vb* spans measures 17-18.

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

4

* Ped. * Ped. *

7

legato

9

cresc. Ped. Ped.

11

f *ff* *mf* *mp*

m.d. *m.g.*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. *8va* *8vb*

15

8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va}

mp *p* *m.g.* *m.g.* *mp*
m.d.

Ped.

(8)-----

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15, 16, and 17. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes, starting with a dynamic of *mp* and moving to *p* in measure 16. The left hand provides a bass line with eighth notes. Pedal points are indicated by a dashed line labeled 'Ped.' and a circled '8' below the staff. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *p*, *m.g.* (mezzo-giochi), and *m.d.* (mezzo-dolce). Octave markings '8^{va}' are present above the right hand staff.

18

8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va}

p

8^{vb}
Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18 and 19. The right hand continues the melodic line with eighth notes, marked *p*. The left hand has a sustained bass note. Pedal points are indicated by a dashed line labeled '8^{vb} Ped.' below the staff. Octave markings '8^{va}' are present above the right hand staff.

20

mf *f* rit.

(8)-----

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20, 21, and 22. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes, marked *mf* and *f*. The left hand plays a bass line with eighth notes. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present above the right hand staff. Pedal points are indicated by a dashed line labeled '(8)-----' below the staff.

23 **A tempo**

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23 and 24. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes, marked *mf*. The left hand plays a bass line with eighth notes. The tempo is marked 'A tempo'. The key signature changes from one flat to no flats between measures 23 and 24.

25 rit.

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25, 26, and 27. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes, marked *mp*. The left hand plays a bass line with eighth notes. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present above the right hand staff.

Seven Diatonic Preludes: Four Notes, C, D, E and F

Gigue

1 Presto ♩. 116

Measures 1-7. Dynamics: *f*, *p*.

Measures 8-14. Dynamics: *cresc.*, *f*.

Measures 15-21. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

Measures 22-28. Dynamics: *pp*.

una corda

Measures 29-35. Dynamics: *mp*.

tre corde

Measures 36-42. Dynamics: *f*.

10 (8) **Calm** ♩ 96

43 *f* *with pedal* *8va*

47 *8va*

50 *8va* *rit.*

53 *8va* **Tempo primo** *mp* *8vb*

57 *8va* *8vb*

63 *f* *ff* *8va* *8vb*

70

mf *f*

1 2 3 2

77

84

15^{mb}

90

8^{va} 8^{vb}

(8) 97

f

(8)

101 (8)

15^{ma} *fp* *cresc.* *sf*

8^{vb}

Seven Diatonic Preludes: Five Notes, C, D, E, F and G

Waltz

1 Happy and charming $\text{♩} = 54$

mp *mf*

10

19

26

31

gradually cresc. *f* *8va*

61

5 8va 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 through 68. The right hand features a melodic line with various intervals and a final measure marked with an 8va (octave up) and a 5. The left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

69

4 5 4 5 dim. mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69 through 74. Measure 70 has a 4 above the first note and a 5 above the second. Measure 71 has a 5 above the first note. A *dim.* (diminuendo) marking is present in measure 72, and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking is in measure 74. The right hand has a long note in measure 72, and the left hand continues with its accompaniment.

75

legato 3 4 1 3 4 1 8vb 3 1 4 2 1 5 2 1 5 3 1 5 3 1 2 1 5 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1

Detailed description: This system contains measures 75 through 79. The right hand has a long note in measure 75. The left hand has a continuous eighth-note pattern. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. An 8vb (octave down) marking is shown in measure 77. The word *legato* is written below the first measure.

80

5 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 1 5 2 1 3 2 4 2 1 4 3 1 5 2 1 5 3 2 1 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 8vb 1 2 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 80 through 84. The right hand has a long note in measure 80. The left hand continues with the eighth-note pattern. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. An 8vb (octave down) marking is shown in measure 84.

85

5 3 1 4 2 1 5 5 3 1 2 1 5 3 4 1 2 3 1 5 2 1 5 3 2 1 3 2 5 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

(8)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 85 through 89. The right hand has a long note in measure 85. The left hand continues with the eighth-note pattern. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A circled 8 is written below the first measure.

90 *f* *8^{va}* *8^{vb}*

Musical score for measures 90-95. The treble clef contains a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking *f*. The bass clef contains a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes and a dynamic marking *8^{vb}*. An *8^{va}* marking is present above the treble clef.

96 *8^{va}* *8^{va}*

Musical score for measures 96-102. The treble clef contains a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking *8^{va}*. The bass clef contains a bass line with slurs and a dynamic marking *8^{va}*.

103 *8^{va}*

Musical score for measures 103-106. The treble clef contains a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking *8^{va}*. The bass clef contains a bass line with slurs and a dynamic marking *8^{va}*.

107 *8^{va}* *15^{ma}* *loco* *8^{vb}* *V.V*

Musical score for measures 107-112. The treble clef contains a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking *8^{va}*. The bass clef contains a bass line with slurs and a dynamic marking *8^{vb}*. A *15^{ma}* *loco* marking is present above the treble clef. The piece ends with a double bar line and a *V.V* marking.

Seven Diatonic Preludes: Six Notes, C, D, E, F, G, and A

Improvisation

1 **Freely** ♩ 100
soloistic

mp *cresc.*

4

mf *mp* *cresc.*

7

f *aggressive*

10

5 4 3 2 1

12

5 4 2 1 3 2 3 1

28

1 2 3 5 1 2 3 5 1 4, 1 4 1 4 1 2 3 5, 1 2 3 5 1 2 3 5 1 4, 1 2 3 4

5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5

8va

(8)

32

5 1, 3 2 1

4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 1 2 3 5

8vb

35

8va

Declamatory

f

Ped. Ped.

(8)

8vb

38

keep f

Ped. Ped.

8vb

Seven Diatonic Preludes: Seven Notes, C, D, E, F, G, A, B 19

Inspired by haiku

Moving gently ♩ 66

1 *8va*

p

3 (8)

p In the meadow grows Tulips, Iris es.

5 (8)

Ov-er time they bloom and die...

7 (8)

mf

9 (8)

10

slight rit.
pp

clean pedal

25

27

8^{va}

29 (8)

31

rit. . . .

33

8^{va}

subito **pp**

una corda

35 (8)

mp

tre corde

53

(8)

55

f

57

sfz

20.

60

64

8va

68 (8)

Musical score for measures 68-72. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays triplets. A dashed line above the staff indicates an 8-measure phrase.

73 (8) **Fast**

Musical score for measures 73-78. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays triplets. Dynamics include *sf* and *mf*. An 8-measure phrase is indicated by a dashed line.

79

Musical score for measures 79-84. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays chords. Dynamics include *f*. An 8-measure phrase is indicated by a dashed line.

85 (8)

Musical score for measures 85-90. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays chords. Dynamics include *f*. An 8-measure phrase is indicated by a dashed line.

90 (8) *15^{ma}*

Musical score for measures 90-94. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays chords. Dynamics include *ff*. An 8-measure phrase is indicated by a dashed line.