

Chamber Written Final Notes

Prelude and Fugue

Time Signature - common time - 4/4

It is meant to be performed in cut time.

One flat in the key signature - key center is D minor

This piece was originally written for piano. The “prelude and fugue” form was developed and refined in the Baroque period, and was particularly well-known in the works of J.S. Bach.

Clara Schumann, wife of composer Robert Schumann, was a composer of the Romantic period. She wrote this set of three preludes and fugues in 1845. These compositions follow the traditional prelude and fugue format that was used in the Baroque period, but they use more Romantic Period harmonic progressions. This Prelude and Fugue is especially chromatic, which you would not have seen in a Baroque period prelude and fugue.

Some important facts about Clara Schumann:

Born into a musical family in Germany in 1819 - maiden name was Clara Wieck.

Child prodigy - performed her first major solo concert at age 11

Married another pianist and composer, Robert Schumann, in 1840

Led a difficult life - her husband had severe mental health problems, she lost 4 of her 8 children, and she performed to support her family while trying to care for everyone at home.

This Prelude and Fugue was written in a particularly difficult time of Clara’s life, which is reflected in the sadness it evokes.

Ice Sculptures

Time Signature - 4/4

Starts with 2 flats in the key signature, changes to one sharp at m. 33

Key centers - G minor at m. 1, G Major at m. 33

The composer of this piece started this work centered around the magnificent ice sculptures he had seen at various venues throughout his life. These sculptures reflect everything from simple platters of food to elaborate works of art. However, as he began researching, he stumbled upon the concept of the “ice hotel” - temporary hotels made entirely of ice and snow. There are a handful of these throughout the world, reconstructed every year because of their dependence on subzero temperatures. The first ice hotel was built in Sweden and began as an exhibition area for ice art in 1989. One evening, there were no available hotel rooms in the area, so some visitors asked for permission to spend the night in the exhibition hall, sleeping in sleeping bags atop reindeer skin. That is how the concept of the “ice hotel” began. The work depicts not only the ice sculpture, but also the many people who set out to visit these destinations.

The music reflects the construction, the artwork inside, and the spirit of the travelers who visit it. At the end of the work, the music depicts the inevitable - the melting of the hotel.

Slava!

Time Signature - 3/4

Key contains one sharp

Key center is G Major, but contains lots of interesting modulations.

The composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov is a Russian composer known as one of “The Five” or “The Mighty Handful” of Russian composers who sought to create a distinct Russian sound in classical music. The other composers of The Five are Modest Mussorgsky, Alexander Borodin, Mily Balakirev, and Cesar Cui. Their style was very nationalistic, which is embodied in the work “Slava!” “Slava!”, or Glory, is a setting of an old national hymn of Russia. It was also used in the coronation scene from Mussorgsky’s opera “Boris Godunov”. Beethoven also quoted this work in his String Quartet Op. 59 No. 2 in E minor. The original “Slava!” was written for chorus and full orchestra.

The Magical World of Pixar

Time Signatures:

4/4 at m. 1

3/4 at m. 10

Cut time at m. 37

4/4 at m. 67

2/4 at m. 72

Cut time at m. 73

3/4 at m. 107

4/4 at m. 129

Key Signatures:

m. 1 - 1 flat - D minor

m. 15 - 1 sharp - G major

m. 37 - 2 sharps - D Major

m. 67 - 1 sharp in the key signature, but the key center is actually G# minor

m. 73 - 1 sharp - E minor

m. 107 - 1 sharp - G Major

m. 131 - no sharps, no flats - C Major

m. 139 - 2 sharps - D Major

m. 149 - doesn't change keys, but it's in D minor

The Big Race - from Cars

Nemo Egg - Finding Nemo

The Spirit of Adventure - UP

The Glory Days - The Incredibles
Ratatouille Main Theme
You've Got a Friend in Me - Toy Story

Take the "A" Train

Time Signature - 4/4
Key signature - no sharps, no flats - C Major

This jazz standard was written in 1941 by Billy Strayhorn and was the signature tune of Duke Ellington's band. Its title refers to the "A" subway line that runs through New York City.

When playing jazz in a swing style, the "and"s are delayed and played like a triplet, swinging the 8th notes. The "and"s are also played with more emphasis than the down beats, and 8th notes followed by rests are played extra short with extra accent.

9th Grade Symphony Written Final Notes

Air and Dance

Air:

Time signature: 3/4

Key signature: no sharps no flats (A minor), changes to one flat (D minor) in m. 33, then back to A minor in m. 47

This piece mostly uses natural minors, but occasionally utilizes the leading tone.

The form of the Air is ABACA - Rondo form

Dance:

Time signature: Common time (4/4)

Key signature: 2 sharps, but utilizes E Dorian

The E Dorian scale starts on E but uses the D Major key signature. Be able to spell out that scale.

At m. 17 there is no official key change, but the music does change keys. With the addition of G# and D#, we are momentarily in E Major.

In m. 21 the key changes again, taking away C#, G#, and D#. This section is E natural minor.

The form of the Dance is ABACA - look familiar?

Appalachian Sunrise

Time signature: cut time

Key signature: no sharps, no flats, definitely C Major

In cut time, the half note gets the beat, so you must think about everything else moving twice as fast.

Doris Gazda, the composer of this piece, is an avid hiker. She used to lead a group called "BACH" - Backpacking And Circuit Hiking, who would take many hikes in the Appalachian Mountains.

The Appalachians are the chief mountain system of eastern North America stretching for nearly 1,500 miles from the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, Canada to central Alabama in the US. The tallest peak in the system is North Carolina's Mount Mitchell, which stands at 6,684 feet.

One of the most memorable and beautiful sights as a hiker in the Appalachian Mountains is the sunrise. As glorious solar rays spread light and warmth across the grandeur below, the promise of a new day is offered for the taking. Whether it be the colors of autumn, the new life of spring, the blossoms of summer, or the glisten of winter, the beauty of daybreak in the Appalachians demonstrates the unequalled artistry of mother nature's hand.

Arlington Sketches

Time signature: common time (4/4), changes to 3/4 in m. 94, then back to common time for the D.C.

Key signature: one flat, D minor

The key center at m. 51 changes with the addition of the E flat. Even though there is not an official key change, we go to G minor for this section.

In m. 96 the key center changes again, taking away E flats as well as B flats. This section is in A minor.

Define D.C. al Coda

This piece was commissioned by the Arlington Symphony Orchestra Association, but this is not located in Texas. Where is this association located?

This is Me

Time signature: 4/4

Key signature: no sharps no flats, C Major

When playing pop music such as this, it is important to play vocal melodies in the same style as a singer, which is almost always legato. Background parts should also match the original and can vary in style.

“The Greatest Showman” is an original musical based on the life of PT Barnum, who rose from nothing to create the spectacle that became Barnum and Bailey’s Circus.

“This is Me” is key to a subplot in the movie “The Greatest Showman”, involving Barnum’s showcase of human “oddities” including a Bearded Lady played by Broadway singer-actress Keala Settle. Halfway through the story, Barnum momentarily shuns his discoveries, literally slamming the door in their faces at a high-society gathering.

Symphony No. 15

Time signature: 2/4

Key signature: one sharp, stays in G Major the entire time.

The form of this piece is ABACA-coda, but there are also repeats of the A and B sections in the beginning. However, this is for sure a Rondo form piece.

This Symphony was composed by Mozart when he was only 16 years old. The form of the piece is important as it shows the composer’s confidence in more advanced symphonic composing. In this symphony he fused both German and Italian stylistic elements of composition.

The 8th notes in this piece must be played with a light spiccato bow stroke, off the string.

Concert Orchestra Written Final Notes

Spring Song

Time signature: 4/4 with one brief change to 2/4 in m. 25.

Key Signature: 2 sharps, D Major

Twice in this piece there is a clear echo of the main theme, which is prevalent throughout the piece. These echos between upper and lower strings occur in m. 13 and in m. 26.

Dramatic Essay

Time signature: 4/4

Key signature: no sharps, no flats

Key center: A minor - this piece utilizes natural minor - we know this because you don't see a lot of accidentals throughout.

In m. 39 there is a brief change to A Major - we hear C#s that change the tonality.

Form: This piece has FOUR different sections - Andante, Allegro, Andante, Allegro

Themes from Halo 3

Time signature: 4/4

Key signature: no sharps no flats

Key centers: in m. 1, even though there are no sharps or flats, we are actually in the key of C minor, which contains B flat, E flat, and A flat. Then in m. 19, the key centers around E minor, which contains one sharp. None of this is notated in the key signature - the key is created through accidentals instead.

Halo 3, released in September 2007, set a record for the highest grossing opening day in entertainment history. Among the many standouts in this game is the stunning soundtrack by Marty O'Donnell and Michael Savatori. This piece features two themes from the video game - "Luck" and "Finish the Fight".

You Really Got Me

Time signature: 4/4

Key signature: One sharp

Key center: this tune is in G Blues and centers around the G Blues scale. This means it is mostly in G Major but often utilizes F naturals.

The Kinks released "You Really Got Me" in 1964 as their third single. It appeared on local charts after only a couple of days. The American release of The Kinks' self-titled first album was actually called "You Really Got Me" because of its popularity. The song was written as a tribute to all of the blues musicians Ray Davies loved, such as Gerry Mulligan.

Consortium

“Frolicsome Finale”

- Benjamin Britten is an English composer
- He was very well-known for his operas and bringing opera to life in Great Britain.
- One of his other famous orchestra works is “Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra”
- Define Prestissimo con fuoco – a most rapid tempo on fire
- stringendo – a passage of music that is to be played gradually faster allargando - - **The Italian musical term allargando (abbreviated allarg.) means to "widen," and is an indication to gradually broaden the tempo**
- This piece is the finale from “Simple Symphony”. The work is based on 8 themes that Britten wrote in his childhood (2 per movement), and he completed his final draft of this work when he was 20 years old. The other movements are titled “Boisterous Bouree”, “Playful Pizzicato”, and “Sentimental Sarabande”.
- Many themes of this symphony are used in the soundtrack to “Bad Blood” (1986), “Moonrise Kingdom” (2012), as well as the first two seasons of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” (2017).

“Rhythmic Variations on Two Ancient Hymns”

- Commissioned by the American String Teachers Association in 1976
- Howard Hanson was born in Wahoo, Nebraska, 1896.
- Other works: Symphony No. 1 (Nordic Symphony) and Symphony No. 2 (Romantic Symphony)
- The multi meter in this piece reflects irregular patterns as if it were chanted.

“Simple Song”

- This piece originated from Bernstein’s “Mass”, which was a theatre piece for singers, players, and dancers. The large work was commissioned by Jacqueline Kennedy and premiered as part of the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.
- “A Simple Song” was the second movement of this work. In its original form, it was written for a baritone soloist.

“Psycho”

- “Psycho” is a psychological horror film directed by Alfred Hitchcock that premiered in 1960.
- This movie is considered one of the greatest movies of all time, setting a new level of acceptability for violence, deviant behavior, and sexuality in American film.
- This piece was under-score music used at the start of movie during the “driving scene”.

- Before Bernard Herrmann had collaborated with Hitchcock for the score to Psycho, he worked with Orson Welles in writing music for “The War of the Worlds”. He later wrote the music for “Citizen Kane”.
- The music to Psycho created something unnerving with its use of muted string orchestra. It’s signature chilling chord was later dubbed the “Hitchcock chord”. The bump-bump-bump-bump sort of signals the whole presence of “Psycho”. It’s a 7th chord that contains both major and minor intervals – the movie starts out very normal, in a secluded hotel, but the minor in this chord represents the darkness that is to come.
- What compositional device does the composer use to create suspense and tension? Lots of intervals of seconds to create tension.

Consortium and Honors Chamber

“Tune in a Popular London Style”

- “Tune in a Popular London Style” comes from the large work “In a Nutshell” by Percy Grainger. It is also listed as “Gay but Wistful”, and is the second movement of the suite. The suite was composed between 1914 and 1916 and is not only written for orchestra, but also solo piano and piano with four hands.
- The other three movements of this work are “Arrival Platform Humlet”, “Pastoral”, and “The Gum-Suckers’ March”. Grainger was a native of the Australian state of Victoria, and Victorians are known as “Gum-suckers” because during the hot summer months they suck the leaves of eucalyptus trees to stay cool.
- Other notable works by Percy Grainger: Molly on Shore, Mock Morris

“Symphony No. 7” Beethoven “Allegretto”

- Written between 1811 and 1812
- Dedicated to Count Moritz von Fried
- What key is the second movement?
- “allegretto” is defined as “At a fairly brisk tempo”
- Beethoven’s music is used throughout the movie “A King’s Speech” (2010), but this movement from Beethoven’s 7th Symphony parallels extremely well with the climactic part of this movie. During the scene where this is used, King George VI overcomes his speech impediment from a nervous start to a confident, flowing delivery over radio broadcast to the nation at the outbreak of World War II.

“In the Hall of the Mountain King”

- This piece is a movement from the Peer Gynt Suite, which was originally written as incidental music for Henrik Ibsen's play of the same name. It was written in 1875 by Edvard Grieg.
- The other movements are I. Morning, II. Aase's Death, and III. Anitra's Dance
- The key of "Hall of the Mountain King" is B minor
- The composer Edvard Grieg was from Bergen, Norway and was one of the definitive leaders of Scandinavian music.

Honors Orchestra ONLY

"The Texians"

- Carold Nunez, composer of this work, lived in Denton, TX and taught at UNT
- This piece was originally commissioned for Dr. Jan Garverick, who teaches at MacArthur High School in San Antonio, TX. She was Ms. O'Neill's (director at MHS) teacher in high school.
- What musical element does this composition highly rely? Rhythm and multi-meter

"Shallow"

- "Shallow" was written as the lead single for the musical drama "A Star is Born" (2018). It is heard three times throughout the film, but most prominently in the scene where the lead characters perform on stage together. This prominent scene was filmed in front of a live audience at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles, California.
- Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, stars of this movie, are the vocalists on this hit single.
- The key for "Shallow" is G Major

10th – 12th Grade Symphony

“Baila Conmigo”

- The title “Baila Conmigo” is Spanish and translates to “Dance with Me” in English
- This piece is in a Tango style.
- The dotted quarter note followed by an 8th note is very common in the Tango style.
- The key signature contains one sharp, F#, and remains in the key of E minor.

“Viola Rondo”

- The “Rondo” form is ABACA
- Viola Rondo has two key centers, G Major and E minor.
- “Viola Rondo” is in a lyrical, singing style.

“Modal Festival”

- The key signature contains no sharps and no flats. It is in the key of A minor throughout.

“The Gift”

- The key signature contains one sharp, F#. It is in G major throughout.
- What are some of the built in challenges of this piece? **lyrical playing with syncopated rhythms, with musical independence in the violins**
- The bass section never gets the melody during this piece.
- The composer William Hofeldt has written many other works. Be able to name at least one.

“The Simpsons”

- The Simpsons utilizes the whole tone scale. An example of this scale is C D E F# G# A# C
- Some challenges in this piece are the tuning of the whole tone scales and rhythmic independence, especially in the basses.
- The Simpsons debuted as shorts on the Tracy Ullman show in 1987. Matt Groening used his own family members as characters in this show, representing himself as “Bart”. The series has aired over 500 episodes.