

Samuel Pradalie

Book of Mechanicals
and Madrigals
for solo piano

Duration: 10 minutes

Programme Note

'Book of Mechanicals and Madrigals' is a set of six small character pieces for solo piano. The set of compositions juxtaposes three lyrical movements alluding to programmatic meaning against three process, minimalist 'mechanical' pieces.

- I. 'Love Song': consists of a lyrical melody made up from dropping languid phrases which are continually set up and interrupted throughout the piece. With each repetition the melody becomes more anxious building to a dramatic climax at bar 29. At the end of the piece the melody is brought back, but twice as slow.
- II. 'Mechanism 1': This piece is comprised of three interlocking ostinatos, each moving at different. The harmony is derived from the opening pitch class cell from 'Love Song'. Layers of the ostinato are removed to expose the mechanics of the piece.
- III. 'Prayer Fragment': Looks to capture a solemn religious tone. This piece is made up from two materials; the meandering line, and the chant-like chords at bar 6. With Each repetition more of the material is exposed.
- IV. 'Mechanism 2': Works in the same way as 'Mechanism 1'. However, it is much shorter and derived from the final chord in 'Prayer Fragment'.
- V. 'Dancing in the Mist': is based around a waltz-like material that is being continually contorted. At bar 9 the material is cut off and a new more stable melody is introduced
- VI. 'Mechanism 3': This piece is built up from two alternating rhythm cells. Sudden changes in dynamics are used to create dramatic changes in character.

NB. Whilst this set was written with the intention that all movements are performed in the order in which they are written, musicians may perform individual or selections of movements.

Love Song

With Fluidity, ♩=80

Piano

Measures 1-4. Treble clef, 3/4 time. Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*. Pedal markings: *pp* Ped.

Pno.

Measures 5-8. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *f*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*. Pedal markings: *pp* Ped.

Pno.

Measures 9-12. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *ff*, *ppp*. Pedal markings: Ped.

Pno.

Measures 13-16. Treble clef, 3/8 time. Bass clef, 3/8 time. Dynamics: *pp*, *mf*, *f*, *p*. Pedal markings: Ped.

Pno.

12

fff *p* *f* *p*

mf *pp*

Ped.

Pno.

15

fff

Ped.

Pno.

17

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

Ped.

Pno.

20

fff *ppp*

Ped.

Pno.

23

f

3

3

3

3

3

3

Pno.

25

f

3

3

5

6

3

3

3

3

Pno.

27

fff

6

3

3

6

Pno.

29

pp

3

3

3

3

3

3

Pno.

32

L.V

$\text{C} \cdot \text{D} \cdot \text{E} \cdot \text{F} \cdot \text{G} \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{B} \cdot \text{C} \cdot$

ppp

$\text{C} \cdot \text{D} \cdot \text{E} \cdot \text{F} \cdot \text{G} \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{B} \cdot \text{C} \cdot$

Ped. _____

Mechanism 1

Mechanical ♩=70

Piano

fff

Pno.

pp

fff

Pno.

5

Pno.

7

p

f

Pno.

9

f

fff

Pno.

11

fff

fff

Pno.

12

14

Pno.

p

16

Pno.

ppp

Prayer Fragment

With Solemnity ♩=55

Piano

f

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 5. The treble clef staff begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a triplet of eighth notes (B4, C5, B4). This is followed by a five-measure phrase of eighth notes: D5, C5, B4, A4, G4. The piece concludes with a whole note G4. The bass clef staff is mostly silent, with a few notes in measures 2 and 3. A 'Ped.' marking is present below the bass staff, spanning measures 1 to 5.

Pno.

pp

Ped.

8va

8vb

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6 through 8. The treble clef staff features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 6, followed by a half note G4 in measure 7, and a half note G4 in measure 8. The bass clef staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G3, A3, B3) in measure 6, followed by a half note G3 in measure 7, and a half note G3 in measure 8. Dynamics are marked 'pp'. Pedal markings are present below the bass staff. Octave markings '8va' and '8vb' are shown above and below the staves respectively.

Pno.

p *f*

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 11. The treble clef staff starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a triplet of eighth notes (B4, C5, B4). This is followed by a five-measure phrase of eighth notes: D5, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass clef staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G3, A3, B3) in measure 9, followed by a half note G3 in measure 10, and a half note G3 in measure 11. Dynamics are marked 'p' and 'f'. Pedal markings are present below the bass staff.

Pno.

pp *p* *mp*

Ped.

8va

8vb

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12 through 15. The treble clef staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 12, followed by a half note G4 in measure 13, and a half note G4 in measure 14. The bass clef staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G3, A3, B3) in measure 12, followed by a half note G3 in measure 13, and a half note G3 in measure 14. Dynamics are marked 'pp', 'p', and 'mp'. Pedal markings are present below the bass staff. Octave markings '8va' and '8vb' are shown above and below the staves respectively.

Pno.

16

3

pp

3

8

Pno.

19

3

p

3

8

Red.

Pno.

22

3

f

3

5

3

8

Pno.

25

3

pp

3

5

3

3

3

8

29 *pp*

Piano score for measures 29-32. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The right hand features sustained chords and a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure. The left hand features sustained chords and a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 32.

33

Piano score for measures 33-36. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The right hand contains sustained chords. The left hand contains sustained chords and a melodic line of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 36.

Mechanism 2

Mechanical, ♩=70

Piano

fff

No Ped.

3

Pno.

pp

fff

Dancing Through The Mist

Gently, ♩=70

Piano

p *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

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

Ped. Ped. Ped.

Pno.

p *fff* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

p

Ped. Ped.

Pno.

pp *fff*

pp

Ped.

Pushing Forward ♩=85

Pno.

mp *fff*

p

Ped.

11

Pno.

mp *f* *mp* *f*

pp *mp* *p*

Ped.

15

Pno.

ff *mf* *f*

mf *mp*

Ped.

17

Pno.

p *ff* *p*

f

Ped.

Mechanism 3

Mechanical ♩=70

Piano

pp

5 5 5 5 6 6

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1, 2, and 3 of the Piano part. The music is in 2/4 time with a tempo of ♩=70. The right hand features a sequence of notes with fingerings 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6. The left hand has a bass line with a 'Ped.' marking and fingerings 5, 5, 6. Brackets above the notes indicate fingerings: 5 for the first two notes of each measure, and 6 for the last two notes of each measure.

Pno.

ff

pp

6 6 6 6 5 5

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 4, 5, and 6. The right hand has fingerings 6, 6, 6, 6, 5, 5. The left hand has fingerings 6, 6, 5. Brackets above the notes indicate fingerings: 6 for the first two notes of each measure, and 5 for the last two notes of each measure.

Pno.

ff

6 5 5 5

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7, 8, and 9. The right hand has fingerings 6, 5, 5, 5. The left hand has fingerings 6, 5, 5. Brackets above the notes indicate fingerings: 6 for the first two notes of each measure, and 5 for the last two notes of each measure.

Pno.

pp

ff

5 6 5 5

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10, 11, and 12. The right hand has fingerings 5, 6, 5, 5. The left hand has fingerings 5, 6, 5. Brackets above the notes indicate fingerings: 5 for the first two notes of each measure, and 6 for the last two notes of each measure.

Pno.

13

The musical score consists of three measures (13, 14, and 15) for piano. Measure 13 starts with a piano (pp) dynamic and features a complex melodic line in the right hand with many five-fingerings. The bass line in measure 13 starts with a low octave (20) and includes a five-fingering. Measures 14 and 15 continue the melodic and harmonic patterns with similar five-fingering annotations.