

Novenarium

3x3 short pieces
for the ninth birthday of
Joseph Erber (15 12 1993)

I

Olam ha-nekudot

James Erber

Fairly slow
(♩=50)

Piano

The first system of the musical score is for the piano. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Fairly slow' with a quarter note equal to 50 beats per minute. The dynamics range from *pp* to *p*. The piece is in a key with one sharp (F#). The score includes six measures of music, each with a fermata over the final note. Pedal markings 'Ped.' are placed below the first five measures. The composer's name 'James Erber' is written in the top right corner of the system.

9

The second system of the musical score continues from measure 9. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The dynamics are marked *pp*. The score includes five measures of music, each with a fermata over the final note. Pedal markings 'Ped.' are placed below the first four measures.

14

The third system of the musical score continues from measure 14. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The dynamics range from *ppp* to *ff*. The score includes five measures of music, each with a fermata over the final note. Pedal markings 'Ped.' are placed below the first two measures, followed by '(senza ped.)' for the next two measures, and 'Ped.' for the final measure. The dynamics are marked *ppp*, *mf cresc.*, and *ff*. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Quite fast

(♩=90)

II On the Plainsong

Piano

mp

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 9. The treble clef staff features a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The bass clef staff has a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed above the first measure, and *p* is placed below the first measure of the bass staff.

10

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10 through 14. The treble clef staff continues the melodic line with slurs. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

15

f suddenly

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 19. The treble clef staff has a melodic line that ends with a fermata in measure 19. The bass clef staff has a simple accompaniment. The dynamic marking *f suddenly* is placed above the treble staff in measure 17, and *p* is placed below the treble staff in measure 19. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

III

Canon 1

(at the octave)

Not too fast
(♩=60)

Piano

3/4 *p sempre*

12

19

IV

Fast
(♩=100)

Piano

4
4

mf

p

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

8

mf

p

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

13

f

pp

rit.

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

V

Fairly slow

(♩=50)

Piano

3/4 *p*

9

15

VI

Canon 2
(by inversion)

Easily flowing
(♩ = 40)

Piano

6pp
8

pp

10

18

23

Musical score for measures 23-28. The score is written for piano in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody in the right hand features eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass line in the left hand consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 28.

17/9/93

Rather slowly and smoothly

(♩=50)

VII
Chorale

Piano

4/4 *pp*

Musical score for measures 1-10 of the section titled 'VII Chorale'. The tempo is 'Rather slowly and smoothly' with a metronome marking of ♩=50. The piece is in 4/4 time and marked *pp* (pianissimo). The melody in the right hand is characterized by long, sustained notes with fermatas, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

10

Musical score for measures 11-16 of the section titled 'VII Chorale'. The tempo and dynamics remain consistent with the previous section. The melody in the right hand continues with long, sustained notes and fermatas. The left hand accompaniment features a change in texture, with some measures showing a 5/4 time signature indicated by a large '5' over the '4'.

15

11/11/93

Quite fast
(♩=90)

VII

Piano

2/4
f

11

p

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

12/11/93

IX

Canon 3

(by retrogradation)

Not too fast
(♩=100)

Piano

9
8
mf

mf

7

13

19

Musical score for measures 19-22. The score is written for piano in two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several slurs and ties across measures, indicating a continuous melodic or harmonic line. The texture is dense and intricate.

23

Musical score for measures 23-26. The score continues in two staves. The key signature remains one sharp. The music becomes more spacious, with longer note values and more frequent rests. A slur covers the first two measures, and another slur covers the last two measures. The tempo marking "rit." (ritardando) is placed above the final measure of this section. The overall feel is more reflective and slower than the previous section.

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Novenarium for solo piano: notes

“Novenarium” - the title is a 12th century Latin word meaning “a set of nine” - was written between September and November 1993 as a ninth birthday present for my son Joseph. The pieces are all based on the following nine note mode:



Like Bach’s Goldberg Variations, “Novenarium” is divided into groups of three pieces, consisting in this instance of a character piece, a piece in free contrapuntal style and a canon.

Some of these titles may need a word of explanation. Olam ha-nekudot (no.1) is taken from the writings of the 16th century cabbalist Isaac Luria and means “the world of points”. This describes the primordial chaos from which the universe was created and refers to the pointillistic style of the piece. II (on the plainsong), with its left hand part consisting entirely of long notes, is a tribute to the wealth of 16th century English instrumental music based on plainsong. Chorale, the title of the 7th item, should be self explanatory.

This edition was processed between 10-12th September and corrects one or two minor errors in my ms. JE

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