

Robert Percy

Chopsticks

for solo piano

Programme note

The pianist begins as if playing the popular tune *Chopsticks*. Very quickly, this is abandoned as the performer seemingly drifts into other ideas.

The piece explores connections between a number of different musical ideas, including: a gentle, pulseless monody interspersed with 'earthquake' patterns (like the rhythm of bouncing ball, coming to rest); soft, periodic, major and minor triads which echo the opening *Chopsticks* tune; a tetchy dialogue between left and right hands; and a high, rapid interplay of two augmented triads.

As far as pitch materials are concerned, the piece uses a six-note, limited-transposition mode (recurring minor third followed by minor second). The piece makes use of the fact that each transposition of the mode contains three pairs of major/minor triads and a pair of augmented triads. Throughout its course, the piece visits each transposition of the mode and the corresponding triads. Interacting with the mode, in its different transpositions, are the five harmonic intervals which make up the original *Chopsticks* tune. The piece finishes with a chorale-like passage which combines these intervals with the various triads.

dur: ca. 12 mins

Chopsticks

for piano

Robert Percy
(2010)

♩ = ca. 108

marcato, alla 'Chopsticks'

Piano

mf *p*

This system shows the beginning of the piece. The right hand starts with a melody of eighth notes, marked *mf*. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a *p* dynamic marking and a fermata over the final note.

Ped.

Poco meno mosso

flexible, dreamily *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

This system features a change in tempo and mood. The right hand melody is marked *flexible, dreamily* and includes triplet figures. The left hand accompaniment also features triplet figures. The dynamics alternate between *mf* and *p*.

mf *p* *mf* *p*

This system continues the *Poco meno mosso* section. It features triplet figures in the right hand and a steady accompaniment in the left hand. The dynamics alternate between *mf* and *p*.

A tempo (♩ = ca. 108)

Musical score for the first system, A tempo section. The piece is in 3/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) starts with a melodic line marked *mf* and *marcato*, featuring a crescendo leading to a *p* dynamic. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic accompaniment of chords, marked *(non-stacc.)*. The first three chords are marked with a bracket and the number 3, and a small asterisk is placed below the first chord. The section concludes with a *Red.* (ritardando) marking.

Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72

(♩ = ♩)

Musical score for the second system, Meno mosso section. The right hand (treble clef) is marked *flexible* and contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes.

Musical score for the third system, Meno mosso section. The right hand (treble clef) is marked *mf* and contains a melodic line with a crescendo. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes. The section concludes with a *dialogue: tetchy* marking and a small asterisk.

Musical score for the fourth system, Meno mosso section. The right hand (treble clef) contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes. The section concludes with a *sfz* marking.

Musical score for the fifth system, Meno mosso section. The right hand (treble clef) contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes. The section concludes with a *Red.* (ritardando) marking.

Più mosso: ♩ = ca. 96

(♩ = ♩) accel.

presto

p cresc. *mf*

* Ped. *

Quickly: ♩ = ca. 72 - 84

* *8va*

p

Ped.

(8) Tempo primo (♩ = ca. 108)

p gently *mf*

3 *3* *3* *3 (norm.)*

* Ped. *una corda* *

marcato

Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72

(♩ = ♩)

p *flexible*

3 *3* *3*

*Both hands play *8va*.

Quickly: ♩ = ca. 72 - 84

* 8va

sfz p ppp poco Ped.

(8)

Più mosso: ♩ = ca. 96

(poco meno mosso di tempo primo)

p gently flexible, dreamily mf

* Ped.

una corda

p mf p

mf p

f p

*Both hands play 8va.

8^{bb}
f ————— *p* *mf* ————— *p*
steady * Ped.

gently building *mf* ————— *p* *mf* ————— *p*

mf ————— *p* *mf* ————— *p*

mf ————— *p* *mf* —————

> p *mf* ————— *p*

mf ————— *p*

mf *p*

mf *p* *calmly*

Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72

mf dialogue: tetchy

Più mosso: ♩ = ca. 96

accel.

presto, rit.

(♩ = ♩)

First system of musical notation in bass clef. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a triplet of eighth notes and a fermata. The second staff has a piano (*p*) dynamic with a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. There are two asterisks with the word "Ped." below the staves.

Tempo primo (♩ = ca. 108)

Second system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The top staff has a piano (*p*) dynamic and the word "steady". The bottom staff has a series of chords. A "Ped." instruction is written below the bass staff.

Third system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The top staff has a fermata over a note. The bottom staff has a series of chords.

Fourth system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The top staff has an *8va* instruction and a fermata. The bottom staff has a series of chords.

Quickly: ♩ = ca. 72 - 84

Fifth system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The top staff has a triplet of eighth notes and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The bottom staff has a series of chords. There are two asterisks with the word "Ped." below the staves.

*Both hands play 8va.

molto rall. ♩ = ca. 36

(8)

mechanical, grinding to a halt

Tempo primo (♩ = ca. 108)

(♩ = ♩)

pp gentile & steady

Ped. * Ped.

* Ped. * Ped.

* Ped. * Ped.

* Ped. * Ped.

Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72

A tempo: ♩ = 108

(♩ = ♩)

(♩ = ♩)

mp

relaxed

* Ped.

Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72

quickly

* 8va

3

5

f

poco

* Ped.

* 8va

mp relaxed

quickly

f

poco

* Ped.

mf more irritable

3

ff

* Ped.

* aggressive

*Both hands play 8va.

Blank.Page

Più mosso: ♩ = ca. 96
(poco meno mosso di tempo primo)

flexible & fluid

pp

*Ped.
una corda **

The musical score consists of seven systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is marked *pp* and includes the instruction *flexible & fluid*. The second system includes the instruction *Ped. una corda **. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. The first system has a treble staff with a quintuplet of eighth notes, followed by a triplet of eighth notes, and then another quintuplet. The bass staff has a similar pattern. The second system has a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The third system has a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The fourth system has a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The fifth system has a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The sixth system has a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The seventh system has a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a quintuplet.

* Una corda & damper peds. Una corda al 'senza una corda'.

* Ped.

* Ped.

* sim.

senza una corda

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a sequence of chords: a G major triad (G4, B4, D5), an A major triad (A4, C5, E5), a B major triad (B4, D5, F#5), and a D major triad (D4, F#4, A5). The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a sequence of chords: a G major triad (G2, B2, D3), an A major triad (A2, C3, E3), a B major triad (B2, D3, F#3), and a D major triad (D2, F#2, A3). A mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking is placed between the two staves.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a sequence of chords: a G major triad (G4, B4, D5), an A major triad (A4, C5, E5), a B major triad (B4, D5, F#5), and a D major triad (D4, F#4, A5). The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a sequence of chords: a G major triad (G2, B2, D3), an A major triad (A2, C3, E3), a B major triad (B2, D3, F#3), and a D major triad (D2, F#2, A3). A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking is placed between the two staves.