Michael Finnissy

SONG 9 for Piano

Notes on Performance

The planist should aim at achieving very good definition in the extreme bass register, and a sonorous metallic quality of timbre.

For preference the lid of the piano should be removed.

'P.I.' indicates Right Hand (sostenuto) Pedal.

'P.2.' indicates Left Hand (sordino) Pedal.

Tempi should always be on the move from one to another.

Metronome Marks indicate the speed at arrival and departure only, between these the rate of Accel. or Ric. is to be even and constant, and depends upon the length of the passage and the difference between the Metronome Marks.

'Lentiss.' indicates a very slow and sustained tempo, unevenly accented and distorted.

'Rapido' indicates the fastest speed at which a rhythmically precise execution is possible.

Accacciaturas are always between bears, as fast as possible and completely unaccented.

Where the indicated metronomic speeds are in excess of the performer's physical capacities the next fastest speeds may be used, but in the same proportions as the original. Very slight discortions of the indicated durations will need to be effected to accommodate the small divisions clearly and audibly.

In places where the texture contains many unplayable simultaneities the notation visually prescribes the desired rhythmic articulation.

The pauses and silences are to be considered as extensions of the surrounding music at zero intensity, during which the performer mentally anticipates the succeeding passage (for example by slowly preparing the appropriate position of the hands).

The softest dynamic should be scarcely audible, and the loudest—used only for the final series of chords—must be really shattering, percussive and resonant.

(M.P.F.)

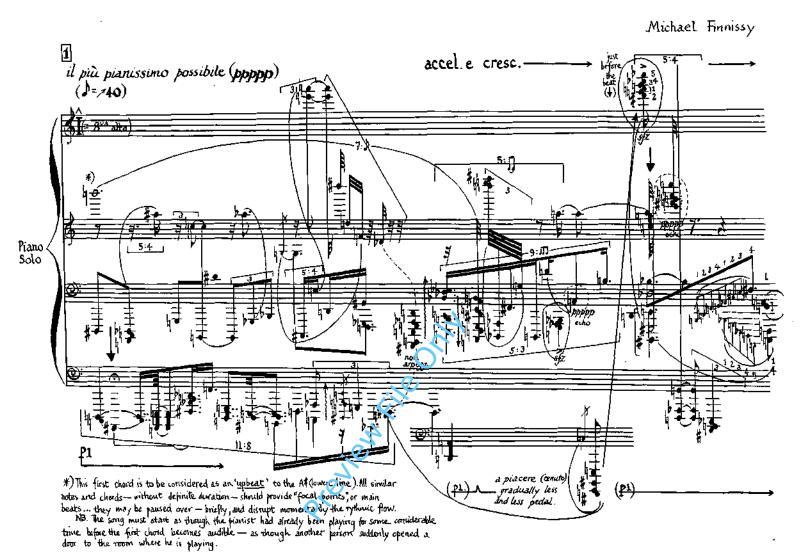
This piece was commissioned for the Ninth "Music In Our Time" Festival, and received its first performance by Ronald Lumsden on 18th October 1968 at the Conway Hall, London.

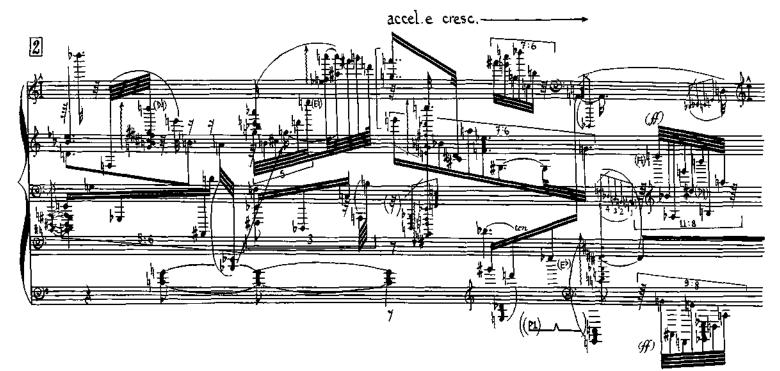
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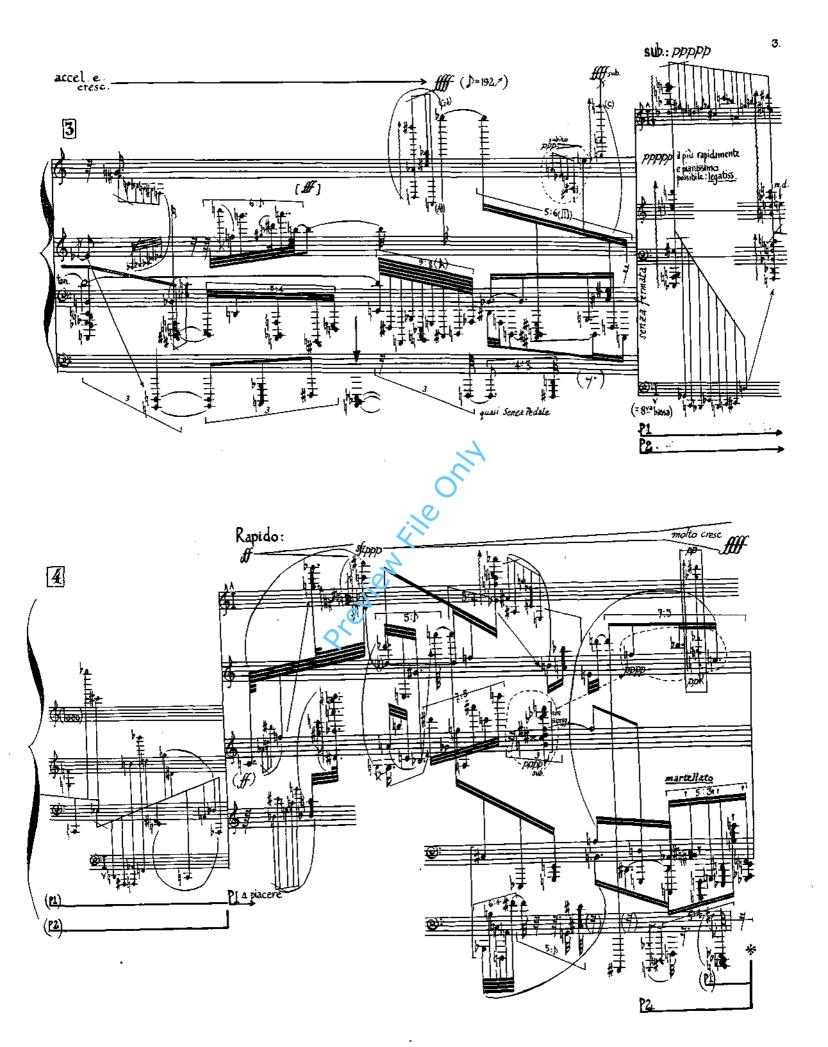
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Dedicated to Ronald Lumsden

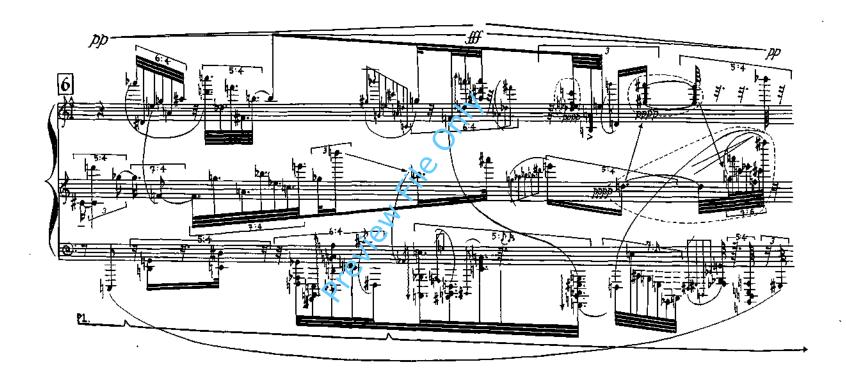
Song 9.

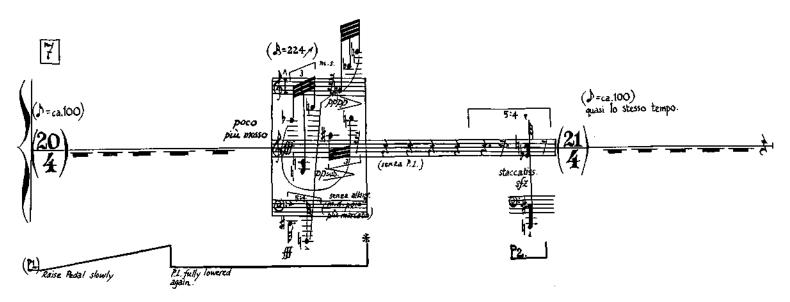


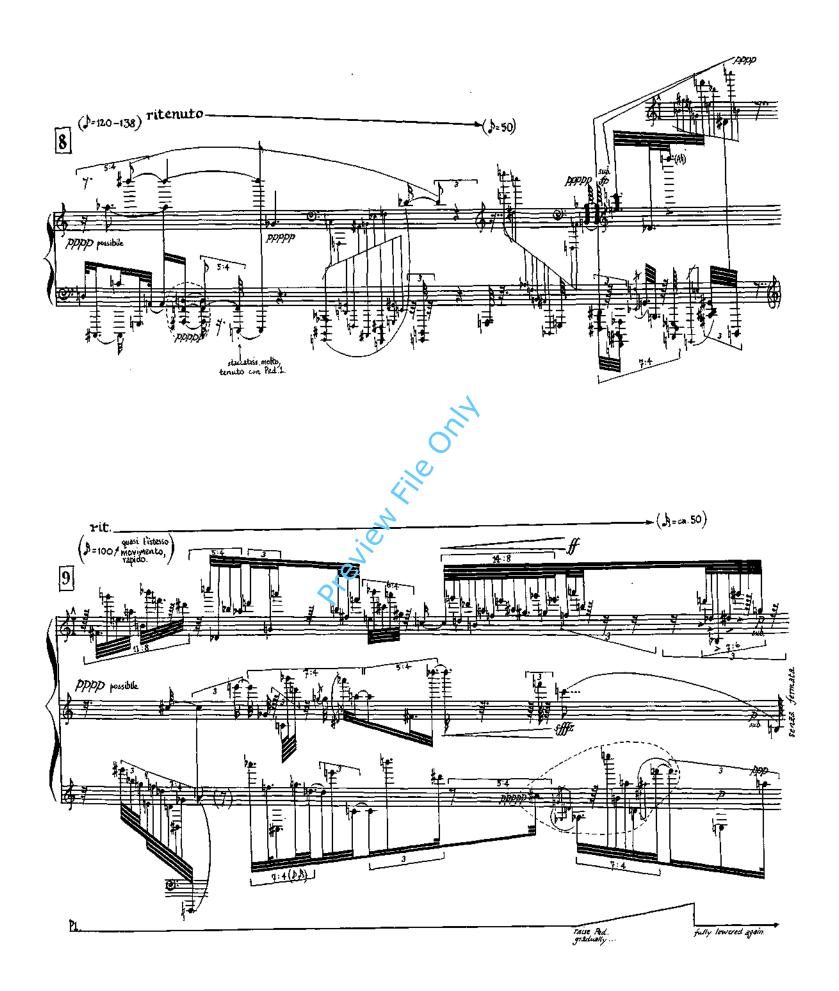


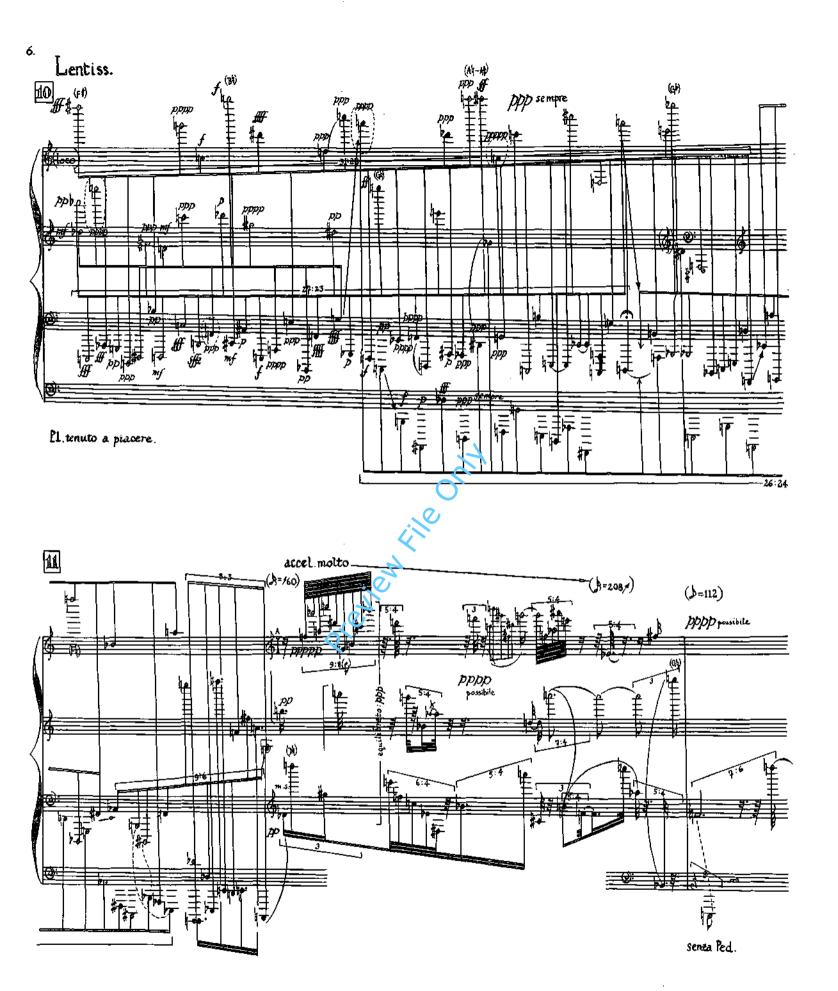


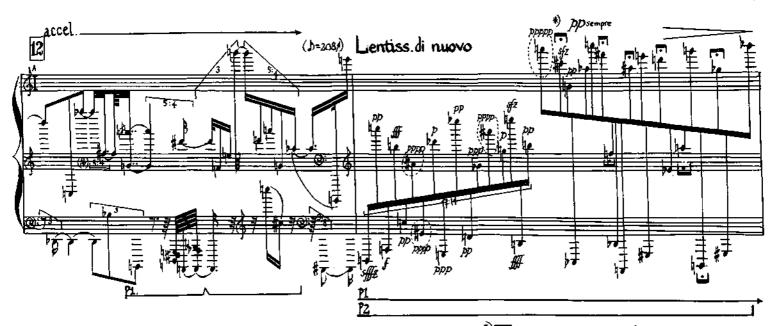




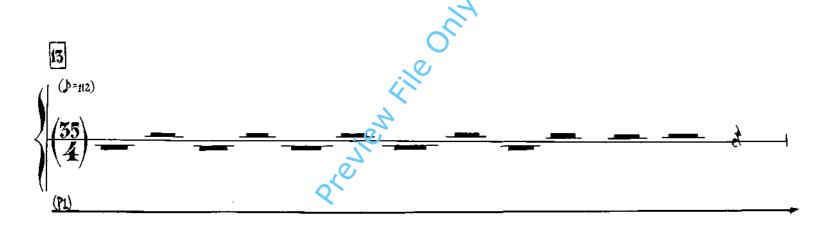


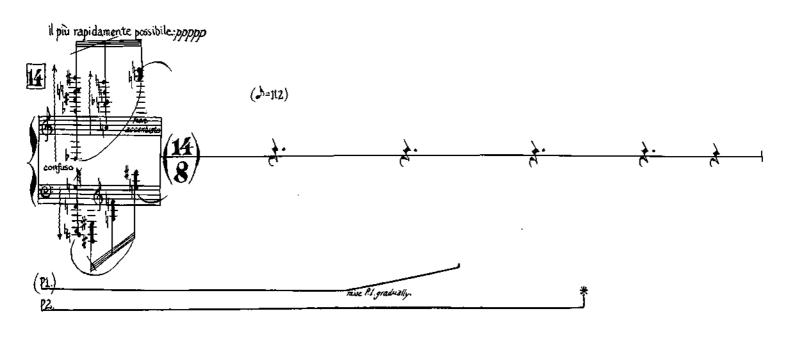


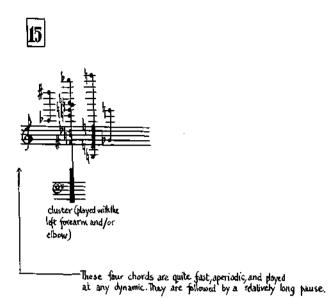




*) To denotes a pause prolonging the Ps by roughly 4 or 5 times their own length, or to a duration of between 5 and 10 seconds.







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