

abstractions

for double bass and piano

by

Jon Christopher Nelson

© 1993

abstractions for double bass, piano, and optional electronic processor was written during the summer of 1993 at the request of Luis Gomez-Imbert and Juan Francisco Sans. This composition marks a turn back to a more lyrical style after a series of works that experiment with disjunct and somewhat schizophrenic figuration. The musical material is drawn from a group of five-note and seven-note chords that share similar features. The musical surface is lyric, contemplative, and at times ethereal. The electronic processor functions to color the bass, enhancing the musical atmosphere. As the composition unfolds, the musical gestures flow from one to another, creating fluid and organic musical links.

abstractions

for double bass and piano

by Jon Christopher Nelson

dur.=14 minutes

Lento ♩ = 40
Set effects to reverb
with 10 second delay.

double bass
with solo D tuning

piano

1
mp
Misterioso
Ped.

*Continue holding the damper pedal and stopping all of the notes with a felt strip through m. 21. Remove the strip quickly at the end of m. 21.

5
pizz.
mp

9
mf

14

14

3

3

3

3

18

18

6

3

5:4

3

3

5:4

Remove felt quickly.

22

22

arco

Set effects to bypass/off.

open

Increase the pressure and slow the bow down in conjunction with the crescendo to get a rude, scratchy sound.

p

f

p

f

f

Red.

Red.

26

26

Adagietto

A

sfz

p

Tranquillo

Preciso

sfz

Red.

Srape string with credit card (pedal remains down).

Risoluto

Musical score for measures 45-49. The piece is marked *Risoluto*. The score consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. Measure 45 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass staff. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. There are two *Red.* (Reduction) markings with asterisks below the grand staff.

Cantabile
Molto Espressivo

Musical score for measures 50-53. The piece is marked *Cantabile Molto Espressivo*. The score consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. Measure 50 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass staff. Dynamics include *pp* and *mp*. There is one *Red.* (Reduction) marking with an asterisk below the grand staff.

Musical score for measures 54-57. The piece is marked *Risoluto*. The score consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. Measure 54 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass staff. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. There are two *Red.* (Reduction) markings with asterisks below the grand staff.

Musical score for measures 58-61. The piece is marked *Risoluto*. The score consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. Measure 58 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass staff. Dynamics include *ff*, *mf*, and *mp*. There are two *Red.* (Reduction) markings with asterisks below the grand staff.

62 *mf* *mf*

66 *Risoluto* *Cantabile* *f* *mf* *f*

70 *mp* *mf*

74 *mp* *mp* *mf* *Risoluto* *Cantabile*

78 *p* *pp*

78 *Red.*

Rubato poco ad libitum
Molto Espressivo

Set effects to stereo echo with .66 second delay.

82 *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *mf* *mp*

82 *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

Circular Bowing: bow vertically to produce a sighing sound.

86 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

86 *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

90 *mp* *sfz* *mf* *p* *pp* *f*

90 *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*



93

sfz *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*



96

mp *sfz* *p* *pp* *mp* *mf*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*



poco rit.

100

mp *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

Lento ♩ = 40

Set effects to slow phase shift
(set cycle at 10 seconds or more).

Musical score for measures 104-106. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 104 with a dynamic of *mp* and features a long, rising melodic line with a phase shift effect. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic of *pp* and includes a section labeled "harmonic".

104 *mp*
Sib sfz
Red.

Firmly press fingers on any string nodes near the dampers. Strike and hold keys. Quickly remove fingers to draw out

pp

Musical score for measures 107-110. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 107 with a dynamic of *mp*. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic of *mp* and includes a section labeled "harmonic".

107

Pluck string in this register while placing a smooth glass bottle edge on the string. Slide the bottle slowly after plucking to get a harmonic glissando. Keep the damper pedal down throughout this section.

Musical score for measures 111-114. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 111 with a dynamic of *pp*. The piano accompaniment has dynamics of *p*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. It includes a section labeled "Red." and a dynamic of *mf*.

111

Musical score for measures 115-118. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 115 with a dynamic of *mf*. The piano accompaniment has dynamics of *mp*, *mf*, and *pp*. It includes a section labeled "Red." and a dynamic of *mp*.

115

119 *piu mosso* ♩ = 60
Set effects to bypass/off.
pizz. arco sul pont. *ppp*
Misterioso

122 *mp* (8va) *mf* *f* *p* arco sul pont. move to ord.

126 *mf* (8va) *ppp* *pp* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *Lento* ♩ = 40 *cadenza con poco rubato*

130 *Con Fuoco* *Ardura* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *sfz* *p* *ppp* (8va)

133 *Leggiero* *Risoluto* *f* *ff* *mf* *pp*

136 *arco* *pizz.* *(arco)* *f* *mf*

140 *Cantabile* *Con Fuoco* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf* *sfz* *mf* *f*

144 *Cantabile* *mf* *f* *fp* *sfz* *ff*

148 *Cantabile* *Con Fuoco* *mf* *ff* *mp* *pizz.* *ff* *sfz*

Doppio Movimento
Andante ♩ = 80

151 *f* *sfz* *fp* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *mf* *pizz.* *mp*

151 *sfz* *mp*

151 *pp*

155 *arco* *pizz.* *mp* *sul pont. arco* *ord. #* *pizz.* *sfz* *f* *mp*

155 *ff* *mf* *sfz* *f* *mp*

155 *p* *p* *p*

159 *arco* *mf* *ff* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *mp*

159 *sfz* *sfz* *ff* *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

159 *p* *p*

164

f *pizz.* *arco* *fp* *f* *fp* *ff* *pizz.* *arco sul pont.* *fp* *ff*

sfz *sfz*

164

mp *p* *p*

167

f *ord.* *3* *5:4* *sfz* *f* *ff* *poco accel.*

167

mp *mp* *mf* *sfz* *mp* *mf* *f*

171

sfz *Allegretto* ♩ = 96 *Set effects to echo with one second delay.*

171

mf *f* *mp* *Secco* *sfz*

176 *pizz.*
mp
Secco
mf
mp

182 *f* *sfz*
mp
f
mf
mf

Stop string by slapping it with the right hand.

187 *p* *pp*
f *mp*
f *sfz*
sfz *p*

8^{ov}

192 *mf*
f
f
f

mp
pp
mf
mp
Red.

196

196

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

200

200

mf *f* *mp* *mf* *sfz* *f* *mf* *ff*

meno mosso
Andantino ♩ = 72
Set effects to either bypass/off or a subtle
reverse gate (or foot-controlled fuzz box) to
add a slight edge to the notes

Maestoso
Molto Espressivo
arco

204

204

f *fff* *p* *mf*

Maestoso
Sva

207

207

mf *f*

Sva

209 *mf*

(S^{wa})

f *mp* *p* *f*

Red. *Red.*

211 *f*

(S^{wa})

mf *f* *f*

Red. *mp* *f* *mf* *f* *Red.*

215 *mp* *f*

(S^{wa})

f *mf*

mf *Red.* *Red.*

218 *ff* *mp* *mf*

mf *f* *mf*

Red. *Red.* *ff* *Red.* *Red.*

222 *p* *mf* *f*

mp *p* *sfz*

Red. *Red.*

226 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

mf *mf* *f* *mp*

f *f* *sfz* *mf* *f* *mp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

Sva *Sva*

230 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

ff *mp* *mp* *mf*

mp *mf* *f*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

233 *f* *mp* *mf*

mf *f* *mp*

mp *mf*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

236 *f* *mp* *mf*

mf *f* *p* *mp*

sfz *p*

Red. * *Red.* * *Red.*

239 *f* *f*

mf *f* *mf* *f*

sfz *sfz*

* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* * *Red.* *Red.* *

242 *ff* *f*

mp

Red. * *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

245 *fff* *ff* *f* *mf*

ff

Red.

248 *mf* *mp* *p*

248 *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

251 *mp* *pp* *p* *sul pont.*

251 *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

254 *ord.* *pp* *ppp* *pizz. sul tasto*

254 *ped.*

258 *ppp* *pppp*

258

Keep pedal down until the sound dies out completely.

