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Alan Brown

Four Reflections

for piano

ENCÔRE
publications

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Alan Brown
Four Reflections
for piano
Duration: 10 minutes

About the music

These pieces written for various purposes across the years were brought together in 2017 as a short suite, with each piece running on directly from the previous one. The four items may be performed as a group or separately ('Modulations' perhaps being the least suitable as a stand-alone item, and the 'Meditation' the most suitable, with its five variations on the Schubert model). Requiring some care in respect of part-playing and dynamic control, all four pieces will, it is hoped, provide helpful and engaging material for pianists beyond Grade 5 level. Players are encouraged to adopt a clavichordist's touch, with unforced tone, mainly legato phrasing and minimal use of the sustaining pedal. Metronome indications are for guidance only.

The pieces are reflective both in their contemplative mood and in their use of the tonal language and certain musical procedures of earlier centuries. The 'Bourrée' was originally written as a piano duet, the *secondo* part (for my granddaughter, a beginner, to play) consisting only of semibreves C, G and F attached to the lower lines of a bass-clef stave. The first section of 'Modulations' (to bar 14 beat 1) was a student effort, the completion being added some fifty years later. The 'Meditation' is based on Schubert's song *Vom Mitleiden Mariae*, D.632 (1818), a strophic setting of a poem of three five-line stanzas by Friedrich Schlegel, dealing (like the *Stabat Mater*) with the sorrows of Mary at the foot of the cross. The song is unusual in being written throughout in three-part counterpoint, with a 'walking bass'; in the final section of the 'Meditation' (from bar 106) Schubert's three contrapuntal lines are presented with only the slightest modifications. By contrast, 'A Song Without Words' is not knowingly based on pre-existent material, though it has structural similarities to many Lieder (especially those in Barform). The piece was composed in 2012 as a birthday gift for my daughter Rosamund.

Alan Brown

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I. Bourrée for Esther

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♩ = 56

PIANO *mp semplice*

6

mf (repeat p)

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11

poco rit. *a tempo*

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15

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19

1. 2.

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(attacca)

2. Modulations

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$\text{♩} = 48$

mf marcato

6

f

12

rit
dim.

16

a tempo
p dolce

22

p dolce

27

attacca

3. Meditation on a Schubert Song

for piano

Alan Brown

Moderato ♩ = 60

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 2/2 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The first measure is marked *p legato*. The notation shows a melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand.

Musical notation for measures 7-12. A large red watermark "PREVIEW COPY" is overlaid across the middle of the page.

Musical notation for measures 13-17. A large red watermark "for reading only" is overlaid across the middle of the page.

Musical notation for measures 18-22. A large red watermark "for reading only" is overlaid across the middle of the page.

Musical notation for measures 23-28. The notation concludes with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic marking.

29

Musical score for measures 29-34. The piece is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes. A dashed line indicates a connection between a note in the right hand at measure 31 and a note in the left hand at measure 32.

35

Musical score for measures 35-40. The right hand continues with a melodic line, incorporating some slurs and ties. The left hand maintains its accompaniment. A large red watermark "PREVIEW COPY" is overlaid across the bottom of this system.

41

Musical score for measures 41-45. The right hand has a more active melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand accompaniment continues. A large red watermark "for reading only" is overlaid across the middle of this system.

46

Musical score for measures 46-50. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur and a tie. The left hand accompaniment continues. A dashed line indicates a connection between a note in the right hand at measure 46 and a note in the left hand at measure 47.

51

Musical score for measures 51-55. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a tie. The left hand accompaniment continues. A dashed line indicates a connection between a note in the right hand at measure 53 and a note in the left hand at measure 54. The dynamic marking "dim." is present in measure 53, and "mp" is present in measure 55.

57

p *mp*

Musical score for measures 57-64. The piece is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a common time signature. The right hand features a melodic line with chords and single notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*).

65

p *mp* *p*

Musical score for measures 65-72. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand has a more active accompaniment. Dynamics include piano (*p*), mezzo-piano (*mp*), and piano (*p*).

73

mp *p* *cresc.*

Musical score for measures 73-80. The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (*mp*), piano (*p*), and crescendo (*cresc.*).

81

mf *dim.*

Musical score for measures 81-87. The right hand has a melodic line. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (*mf*) and decrescendo (*dim.*).

88

p *espress.*

Musical score for measures 88-95. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet in measure 94. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and *espress.* (espressivo).

96

p *pp* *p* *p* *pp*

Musical score for measures 96-103. The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes. Dynamics include piano (*p*), pianissimo (*pp*), piano (*p*), piano (*p*), and pianissimo (*pp*).

106 *mp*

112 *p*

118 *cresc.*

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123 *mf* *dim.*

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128 *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*

133 *rit.* *pp*

4. A Song Without Words

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Andante ♩ = 72

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a treble clef and a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The bass line begins in measure 2. The melody in the treble consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. A large red watermark "PREVIEW COPY" is overlaid across the middle of this system. The melody continues with various chordal textures.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. A large red watermark "for reading only" is overlaid across the middle of this system. The dynamics change to *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 10. The bass line features a prominent melodic line.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The dynamics change to *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 14. The piece continues with a mix of chords and moving lines in both hands.

Musical notation for measures 17-20. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the treble and a sustained bass line.

21

p

Musical score for measures 21-24. The piece is in G major. Measure 21 features a treble clef with a half note G4 and a quarter note A4, and a bass clef with a half note G2 and a quarter note A2. Measure 22 continues with a treble clef half note B4 and a quarter note C5, and a bass clef half note B1 and a quarter note C2. Measure 23 has a treble clef half note D5 and a quarter note E5, and a bass clef half note D2 and a quarter note E2. Measure 24 concludes with a treble clef half note F#5 and a quarter note G5, and a bass clef half note F#2 and a quarter note G2. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed at the end of measure 24.

25

mp
mf

Musical score for measures 25-28. Measure 25: Treble clef half note G4, quarter note A4; Bass clef half note G2, quarter note A2. Measure 26: Treble clef half note B4, quarter note C5; Bass clef half note B1, quarter note C2. Measure 27: Treble clef half note D5, quarter note E5; Bass clef half note D2, quarter note E2. Measure 28: Treble clef half note F#5, quarter note G5; Bass clef half note F#2, quarter note G2. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) above measure 27 and *mf* (mezzo-forte) below measure 27.

29

mf
f

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Musical score for measures 29-32. Measure 29: Treble clef half note G4, quarter note A4; Bass clef half note G2, quarter note A2. Measure 30: Treble clef half note B4, quarter note C5; Bass clef half note B1, quarter note C2. Measure 31: Treble clef half note D5, quarter note E5; Bass clef half note D2, quarter note E2. Measure 32: Treble clef half note F#5, quarter note G5; Bass clef half note F#2, quarter note G2. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) above measure 31 and *f* (forte) below measure 31.

33

poco dim.
rit.

Musical score for measures 33-36. Measure 33: Treble clef half note G4, quarter note A4; Bass clef half note G2, quarter note A2. Measure 34: Treble clef half note B4, quarter note C5; Bass clef half note B1, quarter note C2. Measure 35: Treble clef half note D5, quarter note E5; Bass clef half note D2, quarter note E2. Measure 36: Treble clef half note F#5, quarter note G5; Bass clef half note F#2, quarter note G2. Dynamic markings include *poco dim.* (poco diminuendo) below measure 35 and *rit.* (ritardando) above measure 36.

37

a tempo
p

Musical score for measures 37-40. Measure 37: Treble clef half note G4, quarter note A4; Bass clef half note G2, quarter note A2. Measure 38: Treble clef half note B4, quarter note C5; Bass clef half note B1, quarter note C2. Measure 39: Treble clef half note D5, quarter note E5; Bass clef half note D2, quarter note E2. Measure 40: Treble clef half note F#5, quarter note G5; Bass clef half note F#2, quarter note G2. Dynamic markings include *a tempo* above measure 37 and *p* (piano) below measure 37.

