

Preludes and Fugue

Antiphonal work for Three Quartets: Double Reed, Clarinet, and Modified String

Thomas Joseph

Program Notes

Preludes and Fugue is a four-movement antiphonal work-- specifically three preludes and a triple fugue-- written for three contrasting quartets: a double reed ensemble consisting of oboe, english horn, bassoon, and contrabassoon; a clarinet ensemble consisting of soprano clarinet, basset horn, bass clarinet, and B-flat contrabass clarinet; and a modified string quartet consisting of violin, viola, violoncello, and double bass. The first three movements are preludes designed to foreshadow the fugue. Each prelude isolates one of the quartets and explores one of the impending fugue subjects in contrasting atmospheres and styles.

The first prelude explores the initial motive of the third subject, performed by the double reeds. Stylistically, the prelude is of a light and playful character that one normally would identify with the bassoon. This fragment of the third subject is passed around humorously from one instrument to another.

The second prelude of the string quartet explores the first subject of the fugue but with much more subtlety. Specifically, the initial leap of a major 7th in the first subject, as well as its minor 2nd inversion relative, is developed in harmonic fashion rather than melodically. This movement explores darker emotions, spanning a lament to an ill-fated romance.

The third prelude develops the second subject with much more stylistic contrast in comparison with the first two preludes. The clarinet quartet showcases their wide range of possible color combinations. The prelude begins aggressively, then lightens in accompaniment, yet juxtaposes itself with a rustic, penetrating B-flat contrabass clarinet solo. A lyrical section follows, a peculiar section follows later, then the prelude ends with a light-hearted and playful section.

The finale is a triple fugue of the three subjects, involving all three quartets. The fugue begins traditionally but slowly opens up to experimentation with more modern representations of counterpoint. Each subject is introduced separately with its own exposition, played by its respective quartet. However, after all three expositions conclude, the three ensembles unravel and then intertwine as one mass ensemble. At one point, all the bass voices are vertically stacked on top of each other and each act as an individual bass--in an interesting moment, the B-flat contrabass clarinet overtakes the double bass as the bottom voice. Then the other voices interact over each of these basses in their respective harmonic regions, creating tritonality within the confines of the fugal setting.

Instrumentation:

Ensemble 1:

Oboe
English Horn
Bassoon
Contrabassoon

Ensemble 2:

Violin
Viola
Violincello
Double Bass

Ensemble 3:

Soprano Clarinet
Basset Horn
Bass Clarinet
B-flat Contrabass Clarinet

Setup:

Each quartet should be arranged on stage in an easily discernible manner. Preferably, Ensemble 2 should be front and center. Ensemble 1 should be placed in the left back from the audiences view, and Ensemble 3 on the right respectively.

Preludes and Fugue

Prelude 3

Thomas Joseph

Moderato ♩=96

The score is for a piece titled "Prelude 3" by Thomas Joseph, marked "Moderato" with a tempo of 96 beats per minute. It is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds and strings. The woodwind section consists of Oboe, English Horn, Bassoon, and Contrabassoon, all of which are silent throughout the piece. The string section includes Violin, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass, also silent. The woodwind section features four parts: Clarinet in B♭, Bassett Horn, Bass Clarinet in B♭, and Contrabass Clarinet in B♭. These parts play a melodic line in the first two systems, marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). In the third system, they play a more complex passage marked *p* (piano), featuring triplets and sixteenth notes. The Clarinet in B♭ and Bassett Horn parts have a *p* marking in the third system, while the Bass Clarinet and Contrabass Clarinet parts have a *p* marking in the third system. The woodwind section is divided into two groups: the first group (Clarinet in B♭, Bassett Horn, Bass Clarinet in B♭, and Contrabass Clarinet in B♭) and the second group (Oboe, English Horn, Bassoon, and Contrabassoon). The first group plays the main melodic line, while the second group is silent. The woodwind section is divided into two groups: the first group (Clarinet in B♭, Bassett Horn, Bass Clarinet in B♭, and Contrabass Clarinet in B♭) and the second group (Oboe, English Horn, Bassoon, and Contrabassoon). The first group plays the main melodic line, while the second group is silent.

Oboe

English Horn

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

Clarinet in B♭

Basset Horn

Bass Clarinet in B♭

Contrabass Clarinet in B♭

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

6 9

Cl. *mf*

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

10

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

14 17

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

p

mf

p

18

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

mp

3

3

3



22

25

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

mf

mf

fp

f

mf



27

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

fp

f

mf

31 33

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

mf

fp

mf

sf

mf

sf

35

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

mf

fp

mf

sf

f

ff

f

ff

sf

sf

sf

39 42

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

ff

Preludes and Fugue

Fugue

Thomas Joseph

Misterioso $\text{♩} = 80$

7

Score for measures 1 through 7 of the Fugue. The instruments listed are Oboe, English Horn, Bassoon, Contrabassoon, Clarinet in B♭, Bassett Horn, Bass Clarinet in B♭, Contrabass Clarinet in B♭, Violin, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The time signature changes from 5/8 to 4/8 in measure 2 and remains 4/8 through measure 7. The Violoncello and Viola parts are marked *mp legato*.



Score for measures 8 through 12 of the Fugue. The instruments listed are Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.). The time signature is 4/8. The Viola part is marked *mp legato*.

15 17

Vln. *mf* legato

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

3



21

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.



27 28

Vln. *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mp*

Cb. *f*



33

Vln. *fp* espress.

Vla. *fp* espress.

Cb. *fp* espress.

36 38

Cl. *tr* *mp* *tr*

B. Hn. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Cb. *mp*

41 44

Cl. *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

Cb. Cl. *p*

Vln. *tr* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mp*

47

Cl. *p*

B. Hn. *p*

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

54 **54**

Cl. *mp*

B. Hn. *mp*

Cb. Cl. *p* *legato*

60

59

B. Hn.

Cb. Cl.

Vc. *pizz.* *mf*

Cb. *p*

68

66

Ob. *mp* *ff* *f*

Eng. Hn. *f*

Vc.

Cb.

74

72

Ob. *mf*

Eng. Hn. *mf* *legato*

Bsn. *f* *mf*

Cbsn. *mf*

78 80

Ob.

Eng. Hn. *mf*

Bsn.

Cbsn.

B. Hn. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *arco* *mf*

[illegible]

90 94

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cbsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Vc.

Cb.

f

mf

f

f

f



96

Ob.

Cbsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

Vc.

f

f

101 103

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

mf

p

f

mp

mp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 101 through 103. The instrumentation includes Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (Eng. Hn.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Contrabassoon (Cbsn.), Clarinet (Cl.), Baritone Horn (B. Hn.), Baritone Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is written in 2/4 time. Measure 101 shows the Oboe and English Horn playing a melodic line, while the Bassoon and Contrabassoon play a lower line. Measure 102 features a dynamic shift to *p* for the Bassoon and Contrabassoon. Measure 103 is marked with a box containing the number 103 and features a variety of dynamics: *mp* for the Oboe, *mf* for the English Horn, *p* for the Bassoon and Contrabassoon, *f* for the Baritone Clarinet, and *mp* for the Violoncello and Contrabass. The Viola and Violoncello parts are written in C major, while the other instruments are in D major.

106

Bsn. *f*

Cl. *mf*

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc. *f* *mp* *f* *p* *ff*

Cb. *f* *mp* *f* *p*



114

Eng. Hn.

Cbsn. *mp*

Cl. *ff* *p*

B. Cl. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *ff* *p*

117 120

Ob. *mp*

Eng. Hn. *fp* *ppp*

Cbsn.

B. Cl. *fp* *ppp*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *mp fp* *ppp*

Vc. *mp*



122 126

Ob. *mp*

Eng. Hn. *mp* *p* *f*

Bsn. *p*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

B. Cl. *p*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *f* pizz.

127

Eng. Hn.

ppp

Cb.

ppp



135

134

Vln.

fff pizz. *f* arco

Vla.

fff pizz. *f* arco

Vc.

fff pizz. *f* arco

Cb.

fff pizz. *f* arco

146

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Cb.

ff

f

f

f

f

150

Ob. *ppp*

Eng. Hn. *ppp*

Bsn. *ppp*

Cbsn. *ppp*

Cl. *ff*

B. Hn. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Cb. Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

153

155

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

mp

mp

mp

f

p

pp

f

f

f

mp

161

166

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

168

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cbsn.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf

pp

mf

mp

f

p

pizz.

p

tr

p

arco

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

p

pp

f

175

Eng. Hn.

B. Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

mf

mf

mf



179

181

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cbsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

Cb. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Cb.

f

mf

f

f

ff

ff

f

184

Cbsn.

B. Hn.

Cb. Cl.

Vc.

Cb.

189

Eng. Hn.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Cb.

194

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

B. Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

195

198 201

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

p

202

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

Cl.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

f

p

f

p

f

mp

206 208

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Cl. *p*

B. Hn. *fp* *fp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Cb. Cl. *fp*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 206, 207, and 208. The score is for a woodwind and string ensemble. Measures 206 and 207 are in 4/8 time, and measure 208 is in 5/8 time. The instruments and their dynamics are: Oboe (mp), Bassoon (mp), Clarinet (p), Basset Horn (fp, fp), B. Clarinet (mp), Cb. Clarinet (fp), Viola (f), and Violoncello (fp, fp, pp). The Viola part has a forte (f) dynamic in measure 206. The Violoncello part has fortissimo (fp) dynamics in measures 207 and 208, and pianissimo (pp) in measure 208.

211

Ob.

Eng. Hn. *fp* *fp* *pp*

Bsn. *sf*

Cl. *sf*

B. Hn. *pp*

Cb. Cl. *fp* *pp*

Vln. *p* *sf* *f*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 211, 212, 213, and 214. The score is for a woodwind and string ensemble. Measures 211 and 212 are in 4/8 time, and measures 213 and 214 are in 5/8 time. The instruments and their dynamics are: Oboe, English Horn (fp, fp, pp), Bassoon (sf), Clarinet (sf), Basset Horn (pp), Cb. Clarinet (fp, pp), Violin (p, sf, f), and Viola (fp, fp, pp). The English Horn part has fortissimo (fp) dynamics in measures 211 and 212, and pianissimo (pp) in measure 213. The Bassoon part has fortissimo (sf) in measure 213. The Clarinet part has fortissimo (sf) in measure 211. The Basset Horn part has pianissimo (pp) in measure 211. The Cb. Clarinet part has fortissimo (fp) in measure 211 and pianissimo (pp) in measure 212. The Violin part has piano (p) in measure 212, fortissimo (sf) in measure 213, and forte (f) in measure 214. The Viola part has fortissimo (fp) dynamics in measures 211 and 212, and pianissimo (pp) in measure 213.

221

222

Bsn.

mp dolce

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

227

Ob. *p delicatissimo*

Eng. Hn. *p delicatissimo*

Bsn. *p delicatissimo*

Cbsn. *p*

Cl. *p*

B. Hn. *p*

B. Cl. *p* *mp legato, espress.*

Cb. Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

233 235

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

B. Hn.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp dolce

mp dolce

pp arco

pp arco

pp arco

pp

tr

tr

tr

tr

tr

238

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Bsn.

B. Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

242

fp

fp

tr

tr

tr

(tr)

tr

mp

mp

[illegible]