

Vahan Luder Artinian

Three Sententiae* for Two Pianos

Op. 323

August-September 2019

*The 'sententia' is a musical form I originated in 2013. The word 'sententia' (plural: 'sententiae') is the Latin for the word 'sentence'. The Oxford dictionary defines 'sententia' as "A pithy or memorable saying, a maxim, an aphorism, an epigram; a thought, a reflection." For me a 'sententia' is a musical utterance of a thought that is complete in itself, like a sentence. It is also an utterance that finds no need for any elaboration or development. Hence my sententiae are short pieces that come in sets and are often related to each other in some way. Just like between the movements of a multi-movement piece, I would expect that performers observe a short pause between one sententia and the next. And I would expect that there be no clapping from audiences.

Sententia for Two Pianos, Op. 323, No. 1

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$\text{♩} = 100$

Piano 1

Piano 2

The first system of the score covers measures 1 through 3. It is written for two pianos, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4 for measures 1 and 2, and changes to 5/4 for measure 3. Piano 1's right hand plays chords in measures 1 and 2, and a descending eighth-note scale in measure 3. Piano 1's left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Piano 2's right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale in measures 1 and 2, and a few notes in measure 3. Piano 2's left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

4

The second system of the score covers measures 4 and 5. The key signature remains one flat. The time signature is 4/4 for both measures. In measure 4, Piano 1's right hand has a rapid sixteenth-note run, while Piano 2's right hand has a slower eighth-note melody. In measure 5, both pianos play chords. Piano 1's left hand continues with eighth notes, while Piano 2's left hand has a more active eighth-note pattern.

Sententia for Two Pianos, Op. 323, No. 2

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$\text{♩} = 100$

Piano 1

Piano 2

10

Sententia for Two Pianos Op. 323, No. 3

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Maestoso
♩ = 92

Piano 1

Piano 2

21

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