

Three Character Pieces

for viola and bassoon

Karim Al-Zand
(2006)

PROGRAM NOTE:

Three Character Pieces is a set of short vignettes, mostly light-hearted and cheerful in mood. It begins with a lyrical piece that features the bassoon playing expressively in its upper register. The second piece is comic and a little off-kilter: its meter alternates six- and five-beat measures, while the instrumental parts leap over one another. A robust and lively dance brings the set to a close. *Three Characteristic Pieces* was written for violist James Dunham and bassoonist Ben Kamins.

 January 2006

Premiere performance: *Variations* was written for violist James Dunham and bassoonist Ben Kamins who gave the work its premiere on March 6, 2006.

DURATION:

ca. 7'

for James Dunham & Ben Kamins

Three Character Pieces

1.

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Slowly; gently lyrical ♩=38 (♩=76)

warmly
sordino
p
espres.
mp *mp*

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Slowly; gently lyrical' with a quarter note equal to 38 beats per minute (♩=38) and a half note equal to 76 beats per minute (♩=76). Performance instructions include 'warmly', 'sordino', 'p' (piano), and 'espres.' (espressivo). The dynamic markings are 'mp' (mezzo-piano) at the beginning and end of the system.

⑥ *mp* *mf*

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamic markings are 'mp' (mezzo-piano) at the beginning and 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in the middle of the system.

⑪ *mp* *mf* *mp*

The third system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamic markings are 'mp' (mezzo-piano) at the beginning and end of the system, and 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in the middle of the system.

⑮ *p* *mp* *mp*

The fourth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamic markings are 'p' (piano) at the beginning and 'mp' (mezzo-piano) at the end of the system.

⑳ *pp* *p* *pizz.*
p

slightly slower rit. -----

The fifth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamic markings are 'pp' (pianissimo) at the beginning, 'p' (piano) in the middle, and 'pizz.' (pizzicato) at the end. The tempo is marked 'slightly slower' and 'rit.' (ritardando) with a dashed line. The dynamic marking 'p' is also present at the bottom of the system.

2.

Moderate groove ♩. = 60

senza sord.
pp *cresc.* *mp* *bouncing*

7 *mf* *mf*

13 *cresc.* *tr^b* *cresc.*

18 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

24 *gradually intensify* *gradually intensify*

29

Musical score for measures 29-33. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *f*. Measure 33 ends with a fermata.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The right hand continues with a melodic line, featuring several triplet markings. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent. Dynamics range from *f* to *mf*. Measure 38 ends with a fermata.

39

Musical score for measures 39-43. The right hand has a melodic line with triplet markings. The left hand accompaniment is steady. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *pp*. The instruction "gently" is written above the right hand in measures 41 and 42. Measure 43 ends with a fermata.

44

Musical score for measures 44-49. The right hand features a melodic line with triplet markings. The left hand accompaniment is steady. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. Measure 49 ends with a fermata.

50

Musical score for measures 50-54. The right hand has a melodic line with triplet markings. The left hand accompaniment is steady. Dynamics include *f*. Measure 54 ends with a fermata.

55

Musical score for measures 55-59. The right hand features a melodic line with triplet markings. The left hand accompaniment is steady. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *ff*, and *f*. The instruction "tr^b" is written above the right hand in measure 57. Measure 59 ends with a fermata.

60

Musical score for measures 60-65. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and chords. The notation includes various accidentals and phrasing slurs.

66

Musical score for measures 66-70. This section includes dynamic markings: *ff* (fortissimo) in the first measure, *pp* (pianissimo) in the fifth measure, and *pp* with the instruction *gently* in the sixth measure. The right hand continues with melodic patterns, and the left hand features chords and moving lines.

71

Musical score for measures 71-72. Both hands begin with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic phrase, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The section concludes with a double bar line.

3.

Quickly; buoyant, lively ♩ = 126

mp $poco f$ mf *echo*

⑧

mp $poco f$ mf

⑭

p $cresc.$ p $cresc.$

⑳

f $piu f$ mf f $decresc.$

㉔

mp p p

32

sub. *f* sub. *p*

sub. *f* sub. *p*

38

sub. *f*

sub. *f*

44

sub. *p* cresc.

sub. *p* cresc.

50

vigorously

ff vigorously

ff *mp*

55

mp lightly

62

mf *cresc.*

mf *cresc.*

(69)

f *mp*

(77) *delicately*

pp *pp*

(84)

p *cresc.* *p* *cresc.*

(90)

f *pif* *f* *decresc.*

(96)

mf *mp* *p* *p*

(102)

sub.f *sub.f*

107

mf *cresc.*

mf *cresc.*

113

ff *vigorously*

ff *vigorously*

118

sempre ff

sempre ff

124

mf cresc. *fp* *ff*

mf cresc. *fp* *ff*

130

meno mosso
pesante

pesante