RICE UNIVERSITY

Passacaglia for Strings

by

Aleks Savitski

A THESIS SUBMITTED
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Doctor of Musical Arts

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ABSTRACT

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In **Passacaglia for Strings**, expressive relationships between the music in the foreground and the structural design of the piece are explored. The opening melody of the bass provides a harmonic foundation and the main source of musical material for the piece. Textural variety and changes in orchestration allow the bass player to frequently take the role of soloist, and to add a more expressive value to the melodies in the bass. The piece is ten (10) minutes in duration and consists of four sections (Section 1 mm.1-82; Section 2 mm. 83-145; Section 3 mm. 146-173; Section 4 mm. 174-233). The bass line plays a different role in each.

An equally important element of the work is the melody played by the first violin in the chorale section of the piece, especially its rhythmic character, as after several refrains in the first section, the primary bass line dissolves within the chordal texture of the chorale, and allows this secondary melody to become predominant for a while. It returns in the third section of the work, but with more agitation and, lastly, goes through a short imitative episode in the fourth section of the piece, where it completely adapts the rhythmic profile of the melody from the choral section. The harmonic context of the work is primarily dictated by the presence of six distinct vertical sonorities, which move to the foreground in the middle section of the piece. The work comes to an end when the opening bass line is

fully revealed in the foreground, and entirely transformed through its interaction with the melody from the chorale section.

Passacaglia for Strings

- for string orchestra or string nonet -

Aleks Savitski

2017

SCORE

DURATION: 10 MINUTES

Passacaglia for Strings

Aleks Savitski
2017

Con fuoco ♩ = 96

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

10

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

15

A

20

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

23

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

espressivo, molto sostenuto

B **Gracioso, sostenuto** ♩ = ♩

26

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

pizz.

arco

arco

molto vib.

sotto voce

espressivo, agitato

sotto voce

30

C

ord.

molto agitato

agitato

33

Vn. I

pizz. pp mp

pizz. pp mp

Vn. II

pizz. pp

pizz. pp

Vla.

pizz. pp solo, delicate arco pp

pizz. pp

Vc.

pizz. pp solo, espressivo arco p

pizz. pp solo, espressivo arco p

D. B.

pizz. pp solo, espressivo p mf f pp

39

D

Vn. I

agitato arco mf fp f ppp

agitato arco mf sfz p

Vn. II

(pizz.) p mf

(pizz.) p

Vla.

tutti pizz. p simplice, delicate arco mp

(pizz.) p

Vc.

tutti, agitato p f p pp

molto vib. mp f pp tutti pizz. p (pizz.) p

D. B.

tutti pizz. p f p p (pizz.) f p f

44

Vn. I

mp ppp

3 p

Vn. II

arco 3 p

arco 3 p

Vla.

simplice, delicate
arco

mp p f

Vc.

p pp

molto vib.

appassionato
arco

3 p f ppp

arco p f

D. B.

(pizz.)

sfz f cresc. sfz

arco p f

E

49

Vn. I

sfz p non cresc.

Vn. II

sfz

p

Vla.

sfz pizz.

arco p

Vc.

pizz. sfz

arco p

pizz. sfz

arco p

D. B.

pizz. sfz

molto espressivo
arco

mf fp

52

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

pizz.

arco

espressivo

agitato

56

agitato, espressivo

60

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

simplice, delicate

espressivo

non cresc.

senza cresc.

molto agitato

64

66

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

68

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

70

F

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

sfz *pp* *ppp*

sfz *pp* *non cresc.*

dolcissimo

p *mp* *ppp*

dolcissimo

p

pizz.

molto pesante

arco

fff *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

78

G **Chorale, moderato misterioso ♩ = 80**

ppp

p *espressivo*

pizz.

pp

(arco)

pp

pizz.

pp

pizz.

arco

pp *pp*

mp *ppp*

pizz. arco

pp *pp*

dolcissimo

p *mp* *ppp*

pizz.

arco

pp *pp*

pizz.

pp

sfz *pp*

sfz

85

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

3

sfz

p

93

H **Maestoso** ♩ = 84

mp *espressivo*

mp

f

I **Più mosso, appassionato ♩ = 100**

102

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

f *molto espress.*

mf

p *subito*

(pizz.)

pizz.

J **Accel.**

110

mp *cresc.*

cresc.

arco

Molto pesante ♩ = 132 **Accel.**

115

Vn. I

Vn. II

arco

Vla.

Vc.

arco

D. B.

arco

K **Con forza, non divisi** ♩ = 160

119

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

ff *f* *sfz* *molto cresc.* *ff* *sffz* *non dim.*

127

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

sffz sffz sffz sffz non dim. sffz

ff sffz sffz sffz sffz non dim. sffz

132

sim.

L

136

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

140

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

M **Rubato, liricamente ♩ = 84**

146

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

molto rubato

molto rubato

molto rubato

151

espressivo

non cresc.

non cresc.

non cresc.

molto rubato

156

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

ff sffz

p pizz.

pp

p f

molto pesante

f

molto pesante

senza cresc.

f p f f

molto agitato

arco p pp

f ff

N **Con moto, l'istesso tempo**

160

pizz.

arco

arco

arco

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

ff mp sfz p sfz f mp f mp

f sfz sfz mp f mp

arco

f sffz f sfz f pp f p

166

Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

(pizz.) mf f sfz
arco p pp
arco f pp
pizz. p
mp f
molto espressivo p f ff
agitato p f

170

cresc. p f
mp sfz
con fuoco ff
pp mf

174

O **Molto agitato** ♩ = 144

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

arco

f *p*

arco

f *p*

arco

f *p*

con fuoco

arco

fff

arco

f *p*

(pizz.)

f *sfz*

179

con fuoco

arco

f *ff*

fff

f *fff*

con fuoco

arco

fff

f *p*

f *fff*

arco

f *ff*

f

sfz *f* *p* *mf*

182

P

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

molto pesante

arco

185

189

Vn. I
senza dim.
Vn. II
senza dim.
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

ff *sffz* *fff*

Q

193

R **Misterioso, l'istesso tempo**

simplice
pizz.
mp
misterioso
p

201

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

sul pont.

ppp

sul pont.

ppp

sul pont.

ppp

(pizz.)

mp

mp

mp

mp

3

p

mf

S **Con forza, l'istesso tempo**

210

ord.

fff

sul pont.

ppp

f cresc.

arco

ppp fff

216

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

fp sfz f

220

fff ff sfz

223

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

molto pesante

f *subito*

f

226 **T**

pizz.

fff

fffp

ff

sffz