

Fantasia & Fugue on a Gregorian Theme

for two pianos

Duration: c. 11'00"

RUSSELL NADEL

(2003)



Program Notes:

This piece is based on a “Requiem” theme I found in the *Liber Usualis*, a wonderful treasury of the prayers, chants and lessons used by Roman Catholic monks first published in 1896. The most singular thing about the music contained in this volume is that the music, when separated from the religious texts, can still stand quite well on its own. This theme is at first presented literally in the first movement, and is then developed, harmonized, and elaborated upon throughout the course of the movement, and is combined with various counter-themes of my own composition. In the second movement, I altered the even note values of the original chant to make the theme into a fast mixed-meter fugue subject, and developed it in the traditional fugue style (with expositions, episodes and middle entries). I then composed another fugue entirely of my own creation, and made the second movement into a large double fugue by superimposing the two themes at the end of the movement. Both movements give ample opportunity for the pianists to show off both their lyric and interpretive sensibilities and the technical “chops” required to play exciting, pyrotechnic piano music. This piece is dedicated to Drs. Nancy Roldán and Noel Lester, with great admiration and appreciation.

— *Russell Nadel*
September 2003



dedicated to Nancy Roldán and Noel Lester

Fantasia and Fugue on a Gregorian Theme

I. Fantasia

RUSSELL NADEL

Lento e legato (♩ = 60) *♩ = ♩ sempre* *

Piano I *p dolce*

Piano II *pp*

Ped. ad lib.

A

9 *mp* *mf* *poco f*

I *p* *mp* *mf*

II *mp*

(8) *8va*

B

14 *molto rit.* *A tempo* *pp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

I *pp* *ppp* *pp*

II *mp* *pp* *pp* *pp sotto voce*

(8) *8va*

* Merge all grace notes smoothly into the melody.

2

20 **C** Più mosso (♩ = 69)

mp dolce

pp

pp

pp

8^{vb}



25 **D**

p

mf

mf

p

pp legato

mf

8^{vb}



31 **E**

mf

mf marc.

mf

p

mfp

mf

8^{vb}

Lo stesso tempo, ma con bravura

I

35

f

tr

F

ff

f

3

3

(8)

II

mf

mp

fmp

f

f

I

37

3

3

3

(8)

II

sim.

I

39

3

(8)

II

4

41

I

p sub.

(loco)

II

mp

ppp sub.

42

I

cresc. poco a poco

tr

ff

8^{vb}

II

cresc. poco a poco

(loco)

ff

8^{vb}

G

44

I

ff

m.s.

mf

mp

m.d.

3

II

mf

8^{vb}

46

I

3

3

3

m.s.

m.s.

m.d.

m.d.

5

8^{va}

II

48

I

3

l.v.

H

Meno mosso (♩ = 60)

pp

pp

8^{va}

tr

pp

mf

pp

II

53

I

poco rit.

8^{va}

I

Lento, calmo (♩ = 60)

l.v.

pp lontano

p

accel.

8^{va}

II

p dolce

mp

mp

II. Fugue

Presto marziale, $\text{♩} = 46$ ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 230$)

Piano I
ff
 (senza Ped.)

Piano II
mf
f
 (senza Ped.)

6 **A**

I
mf legato

II
f

12

I
pp

II
p
pp

18 **B**

Staff I: *f*, *p sfz p*, *f*, *mp*, *pp sub.*, *p*

Staff II: *f*, *p sfz p*, *f*, *p*

24 **C**

Staff I: *pp*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*

Staff II: *mp*, *p*, *p*, *f*, *f*, *8vb*

29

Staff I: *f*

Staff II: *mf legato*, *p*, *f*, *pp*, *mp*

D

34

I

II

mf *p* *mp* *f* *p sub.* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *f*

40

I

II

mf *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

E

45

I

II

f *mp* *ff* *mp* *f*

50 **F**

I
II

mp *f* *p* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

mf *p* *mfp* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

55 **G**

I
II

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *mp* *fff*

mf *cresc.* *ff* *mp* *ff*

59

I
II

mp *delicato* *p* *dolce* *p* *mp*

f *mf* *p* *(f)*