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I hereby recommend that the thesis prepared under my supervision by J. Bruce Ashton
entitled Music for Piano Left-hand and Orchestra

be accepted as fulfilling this part of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts

Approved by:

Samuel F. Pogue
Paul M. Galambo
Jan 1 1971

MUSIC FOR PIANO LEFT-HAND AND ORCHESTRA

A Study of Technical Solutions
to a Musical Problem

Presented by

J. Bruce Ashton

*

To Fulfill the Thesis Requirement for the Degree
Doctor of Musical Arts

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of the
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CHAPTER I

SURVEY

The problems of composing for piano left-hand and orchestra are more complex than those of composing for practically any other concerted medium. They include the usual concerns for proper balance and suitable orchestration, distribution of thematic material, and adaptation of available technical resources. All of these factors, however, must be dealt with in other concertos, some of them to an even greater extent than in those for the left hand. For example, a large chord struck by the left hand in the lower register of the piano is just as loud whether the pianist has a right hand or not, and in any case is considerably louder than the most forceful sounds that can be produced by a flute or oboe. The problem of composing suitable thematic material in a single-line context is far more acute in writing a clarinet concerto than in writing for five fingers at the keyboard.

The additional problems are neither musical nor technical, but psychological. Any composer who is at all conversant with the piano and its resources instinctively recognizes that a one-armed virtuoso cannot possibly obtain the same textural or dynamic results as a two-armed

pianist. The temptation, therefore, is to concentrate on exploiting all the resources that remain, regardless of the musical considerations involved.

No one composer, of course, has exhausted the supply of available tricks. Where one writer calls for glissandos the entire length of the keyboard upward, another uses a glissando downward and on the black keys only. Any composer, having examined the works of others, could come up with some figuration which had not been demanded before. None of this is, however, directly related to the musical value of the piece, except as it may distract the composer from more important aspects of composition. It might seem almost preferable for a pianist thus handicapped to adapt great concertos for single-line instruments, thus giving his hearers a valid musical experience, rather than to burden his audience with an almost scholastic outline of the techniques which his left hand has achieved.

Perhaps this indictment is unduly harsh. Even admitting, however, that there have been far more second-rate composers than masters at any given time, it is interesting that of at least seventeen works written for left-hand and orchestra, only three are ever heard, and two of those but rarely. There is certainly no reason why left-hand concertos could not be played by two-handed pianists, and indeed they have been. Nevertheless, this body of literature (admittedly small) has not been exploited to any degree by concert pianists, and one reason would appear to be the

relatively meager musical gratification with which these pieces reward an immense amount of technical effort.

The left hand has generally been assumed, throughout the history of piano playing, to be the weaker and less controllable member. At least three factors have contributed to this judgment: (1) most persons are naturally right-handed, though not such a large majority as was once supposed; (2) musical perception usually attributes more melodic importance to the highest notes heard, those usually played by the right hand; (3) acoustically, higher pitches tend to project with greater force and clarity than those in the normal left-hand range. It is also true that in general the left hand has always carried connotations of inferiority, dirtiness, or evil. The English word "sinister" is derived from the Latin sinistra, "left-handed." There have been examples of great left-hand dexterity and control, however. The Bible records seven-hundred left-handed warriors of the tribe of Benjamin who "could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss" (Judges 20:16). In the mid-nineteenth century, displays of left-handed pianistic virtuosity were favorite feats. Alexander Dreyschock (1818-1869), for example, astounded his audiences by playing Chopin's Etude in c, Op. 10, No. 12 (Revolutionary) with the left-hand line in octaves.¹ Dreyschock and other virtuosos also fabricated elaborate variations, operatic fantasies, and other such pieces for

¹Willi Kahl, "Dreyschock, Alexander," Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart (MGG), III, col. 821.

solo left-hand performance. There is a simple piece by K. P. E. Bach for either hand alone, but the first composer to assay a serious form for one-handed performance seems to have been Friedrich Kalkbrenner (1785-1849), whose Opus 42 was a sonata in A-flat for solo left hand.

The first artist to attempt a concert career with only one arm was a Hungarian nobleman, Geza Zichy (1849-1924). At the age of fifteen, Zichy had his right arm blown off in a hunting accident, yet determined to become a pianist nevertheless. In the course of his musical development he studied with Liszt, who encouraged him to make public appearances and even played three-hand arrangements with him, one of their favorites being Zichy's arrangement of the Rakoczy March. Zichy also applied to Robert Volkmann for tuition in composition, and wrote a large number of works, most of them either didactic (School for the left-hand), arrangements (including the Bach Chaconne in d and Schubert's Erlkonig), or salon music (his most popular piece was Valse d'Adele, which Liszt later transcribed for two hands). He also composed a sonata and, in 1902, a Concerto in E-flat, the earliest example of a concerted work for piano left-hand and orchestra known to this writer.

The central figure in the left-hand concerto repertory was Paul Wittgenstein (1887-1961). As a child in Vienna, Wittgenstein had been allowed to accompany Joseph Joachim at private musical gatherings, and he had met Brahms, Mahler, Wolf, and Clara Schumann. As a pupil of Leschetitzky he had

made a successful debut in December, 1913. Less than a year later, however, on the Polish front in World War I, a Russian bullet shattered his right arm. Determined to succeed in spite of his loss, Wittgenstein gathered every piece of music he could find for left-hand alone, and set out to develop the necessary control and strength. Leopold Godowsky's transcriptions of the Chopin etudes for solo left-hand were useful to him, and he also made transcriptions of his own, but he was still frustrated by the lack of good literature. To supply his own needs, he began commissioning works from more-or-less important composers of his acquaintance. His first request was made to his former theory and composition teacher, the blind composer Joseph Labor (1842-1924), who had anticipated the request and had already been at work on the score for six weeks when Wittgenstein's letter reached him. Between the completion of that work and the year 1940, when the last of Wittgenstein's commissioned works appeared, the following composers wrote pieces for piano left-hand and orchestra, either specifically at Wittgenstein's request or, at least, dedicated to him: Sergei Bortkiewicz (1877-1952), Rudolf Braun (1869-1925), Benjamin Britten (b. 1913), Paul Hindemith (1895-1963), Erich Korngold (1897-1957), Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953), Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), Franz Schmidt (1874-1939; two works), and Richard Strauss (1864-1949; two works).² At least four composers—Joseph Labor,

² See Appendix for a table listing all known works for piano left-hand and orchestra, with pertinent information.

Franz Schmidt, Hans Gal (b. 1890), and Ernest Walker (1870-1949)--contributed chamber works.

There are four additional works for piano left-hand and orchestra. In 1948, Sir Arnold Bax (1893-1953) composed a Concertante for the British pianist Harriet Cohen, whose right arm was temporarily injured in a domestic accident. It may have been for the same pianist that Norman Demuth (1898-1968) composed two works. Finally, in 1962 the Dutch composer and pianist Cor de Groot (b. 1914) composed his Variations Imaginaires.

At the present time there apparently are no one-armed pianists on the concert scene. Douglas Fox (b. 1893) lost an arm under the same circumstances as did Wittgenstein. He was unable to use any of Wittgenstein's works, but did have a successful career as the music director of a British boys' school, and achieved considerable success as an organist. Siegfried Rapp (dates not available) lost his right arm in World War II, and gave the first performance, in 1956, of the Prokofiev Fourth Concerto, which Wittgenstein had commissioned but never played. No further information about Rapp is available, however. Mention should also be made of Otakar Hollmann (dates not available), another World War I casualty, for whom Leoš Janáček (1854-1928) composed the Capriccio for piano left-hand and seven winds, a work which is chamber music by its scoring, yet almost concertante in its treatment of the instruments. This work will not be considered in the present paper.

Not surprisingly, most of the left-hand concertos are not readily available. Seven works either exist only in manuscript (Demuth-2, de Groot, Hindemith) or are permanently out of print (Bortkiewicz, Braun, Zichy). It seems likely that in most of these cases the intrinsic musical value is not great enough to justify performance. Such composers as Demuth, de Groot, Bortkiewicz, and Braun are virtually unknown, and one would hardly expect their reputation to be made by a single work with such an obviously limited market. It should also be remembered that most of these works were written for a specific individual, and were thus not available to other pianists, at least for a certain period of time.

Another five works are published, but difficult to obtain (Bax, Korngold, Labor, Schmidt-2). At least two of these pieces have been well spoken of. Trevor Harvey, who met Wittgenstein in 1937 and who conducted the first British performance of Britten's Diversions in 1950, wrote on the occasion of Wittgenstein's death: "I should like also to draw special attention to the Concertante Variations on a theme of Beethoven, for piano and orchestra, by Franz Schmidt, a work that I heard Wittgenstein broadcast in Vienna and which struck me as of special wit and charm, a judgment confirmed by a recent look at the score, of which he gave me a copy."³ William Mann describes Bax's Concertante as "a work of enormous beauty," and points out that

³Trevor Harvey, "Paul Wittgenstein: A Personal Reminiscence," Gramophone, XXXIX (June, 1961), 2.

the composer has achieved his effects with techniques within a relatively narrow hand-span, since the dedicatee, Harriet Cohen, could not reach over an octave.⁴

The five remaining works, for which scores are readily available, will form the basis for the discussions in this paper. We shall investigate primarily the technical demands made upon the performer, with passing reference to some of the musical solutions to the compositional problems involved. The works will not be dealt with in chronological order, but with reference to their approach to the challenge of creating such a work. Chapter II will be devoted to the simplest work, the Fourth Piano Concerto by Prokofiev. In Chapter III we will consider the Parergon zur Sinfonia Domestica by Richard Strauss, in which motivic development plays an important role. In Chapter IV Strauss's Panathenäenzug will be studied, with its pianistic figurations which are largely accompanimental rather than soloistic. Britten's Diversions, the subject of Chapter V, is an admitted technical showcase. Chapter VI is a study of Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, which is generally acknowledged to be the most successful work in this repertory. Finally, Chapter VII will present some summary comparisons and conclusions.

⁴William Mann, "Some English Concertos," in The Concerto, ed. by Ralph Hill (Baltimore: Penguin Books Inc., 1952), p. 403.

CHAPTER II

PROKOFIEV: CONCERTO No. 4 IN B-FLAT, Op. 53

In June, 1931, Prokofiev completed his fourth piano concerto, written at the request of Wittgenstein. The pianist had already received a number of works (those by Labor, Braun, Hindemith, Korngold, Strauss, and one of Schmidt's), most of which were apparently agreeable to his conservative musical taste, which by his own admission stopped at the period of Brahms.⁵ Prokofiev, on the other hand, was not a conservative composer, and the work which he sent was not at all to Wittgenstein's liking. "Thank you for your concerto," the pianist wrote, "but I do not understand a single note of it, and shall not play it."⁶ Indeed, he never did, although he took a certain interest in the piece when, in the mid-1950's, he heard it sight-read by Yuri Bukov. As was noted before, the first public performance was given by Siegfried Rapp, in Berlin, on September 5, 1956.

Prokofiev himself was unsure of the merits of this work. He considered revising it for two hands, but never

⁵Victor Seroff, Sergei Prokofiev: A Soviet Tragedy (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1968), p. 163.

⁶Quoted in Seroff, Prokofiev, p. 163.

did so. It has never been received as one of the composer's most inspired compositions: Miaskovsky characterized it as "interesting but somewhat dry,"⁷ while Nestyev found it "extremely contrived and complicated."⁸ Prokofiev wrote his own description of the concerto's four movements in his autobiography: "The first, a swift running movement built mainly on finger technique; the second, an andante developing with a calm solemnity; the third, a sort of sonata allegro (although not quite true to form); and the fourth, a revision [sic] to the swift first but in abbreviated form and piano throughout."⁹

Pianistic Techniques

Approximately two-thirds of the soloist's measures in the first movement, and no less than 97% in the last movement, consist of single-line passages. (All of the material used in the final movement is based on melodic and figural ideas used in the first movement, for which reason no musical examples will be taken from the last movement in this discussion.) These passages are for the most part written in constant sixteenth-notes and either consist of a melodic

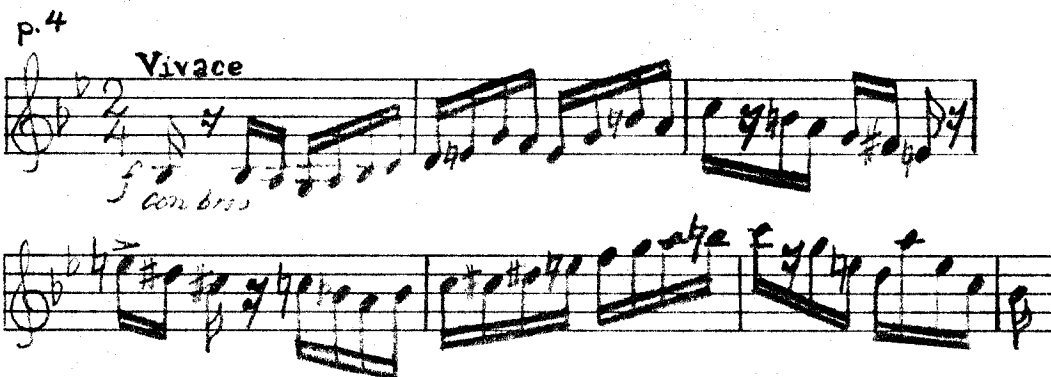
⁷Quoted in Israel V. Nestyev, Prokofiev, trans. by Florence Jonas (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1960), p. 246.

⁸Nestyev, Prokofiev, p. 237.

⁹Quoted in the introduction to the two-piano score, Sergei Prokofiev, Concerto No. 4 (New York: International Music Company, 1967), p. 3. All musical examples in this chapter are taken from this edition.

idea (Example 1a) or feature arpeggios in single hand groupings (Example 1b).

a.



b.



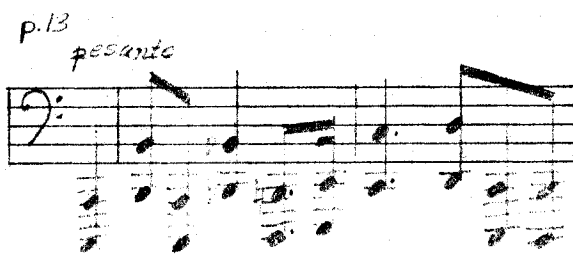
Example 1

There is also a brief passage in steady eighth-notes, providing an almost pointillistic accompaniment with its wide skips, the largest of which is just over two octaves. (See Example 2, page 12.) In those measures which use double-note passages, a number of different effects are called for. One of the simplest devices is that of doubling a melodic



Example 2

line at the octave.



Example 3

Another time the composer writes a chromatic melody of very narrow range below a reiterated pedal point, creating a rather static effect. This passage, quoted in Example 4, page 13, is followed by a double rising line in alternating major and minor ninths (Example 5a). After the line reaches a broad peak at the distance of a perfect twelfth above its beginning, it descends in the same manner to the level at which it began. When the same melodic arch is repeated, the voices are ornamented rhythmically (Example 5b), and the

P. 11
14 *marcatissimo* 8-7

Example 4

descent is given to the orchestra, accompanied by a wild, leaping figure in the piano (Example 5c).

a.

P. 12
15 *pesantissimo*

b.

P. 14
18

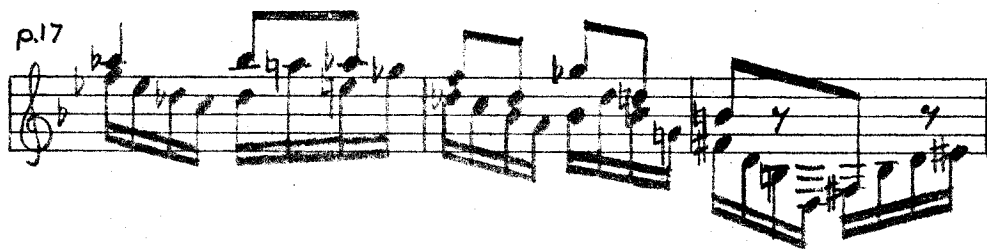
Example 5

c.



Example 5 (continued)

There is only one passage in this movement consisting of two distinct lines, of which the lower is a running accompaniment; the upper is doubled an octave higher by an orchestral instrument.



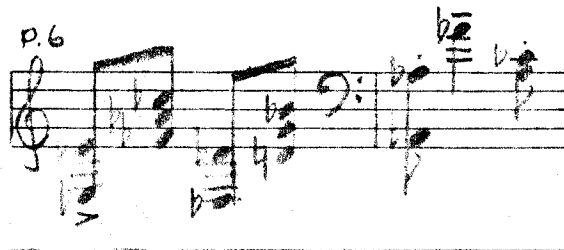
Example 6

Another device, found in only a single place in this movement, is a passage consisting of skips between a lower single note (Example 7a) or octave (Example 7b) and a chord.

a.



b.



Example 7

The inner movements demand a greater variety of techniques and yield a correspondingly greater variety of effects. The Andante introduces the soloist (after a nineteen-bar orchestral introduction, with a melody in octaves, itself an elaboration of the orchestra's accompanying melody).

Example 8

The piano then moves directly into one of the remarkably few passages where it is heard unaccompanied. In these measures a new melodic element is introduced, accompanied by a slow arpeggiated line. The overall effect is imitative of a two-handed technique, particularly because of the two-against-three rhythmic interplay.



Example 9

Wider-ranging arpeggios than have been seen before accompany an orchestral continuation of this new theme, scored at the open double octave. Occasional octaves serve to thicken the pianistic texture. (See Example 10, page 17.)

Yet wider and more bravura arpeggios accompany the next statement of the same melody, again set at the open double octave. (See Example 11, p. 18.)

p. 20

(solo)

(orchestra)

The musical score is handwritten and consists of three systems. The first system features a solo part on a single staff and an orchestra part on a grand staff. The second and third systems continue the music with multiple staves for both solo and orchestra parts. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and dynamic markings like 'p' and 'f'.

Example 10

p. 22

31 *a tempo*

(solo) *ff*

a tempo

(orchestra) *ff cantabile*

Example 11

Mixed into this sweeping passage are a few single-note leaps of two octaves (Example 12a) and an octave run (Example 12b).

a.

p. 23

Example 12

b.



Example 12 (continued)

Trills occur for the only time in the concerto in the diminuendo which concludes the treatment of this theme and prepares the return of the soloist's opening melody.



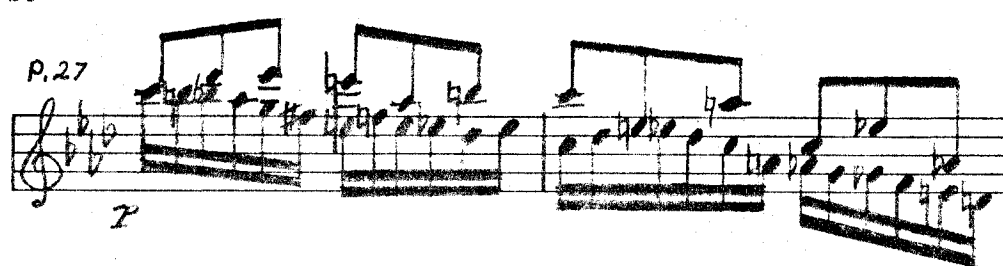
Example 13

The restatement of the original piano melody occurs with a simple note-against-note counter melody (Example 14a) and again with a contrapuntal line in running sixteenth-notes (Example 14b).

a.

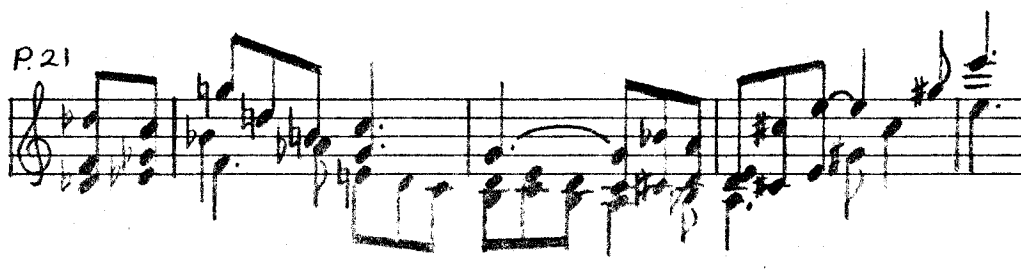


b.



Example 14

Two additional devices in this movement should be noted. The first is a very brief passage in a full three-voiced texture.



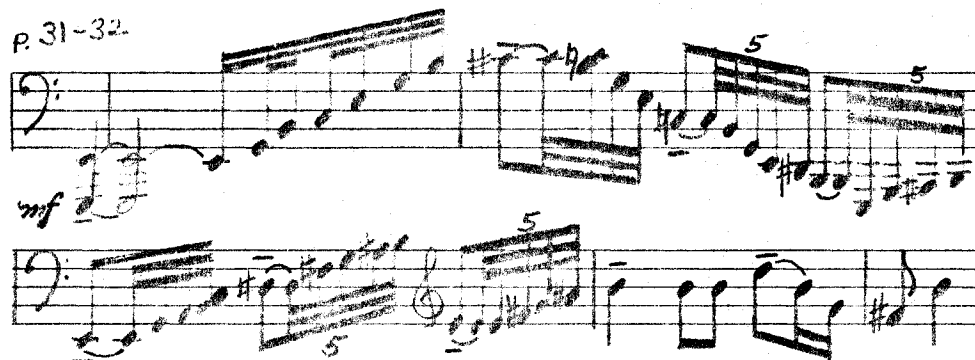
Example 15

The other involves a very full texture, strongly reminiscent of two-handed technique, and requires very wide hand-spans, some of them virtually impossible to play except by arpeggiation.



Example 16

The third movement has a ten-measure orchestral introduction, after which the soloist enters with another single-note line. There follows some extremely involved passage-work, and then a sudden return to a simple triadic melody.



Example 17

Again in this movement there are bravura octaves, wide-ranging arpeggios, various single-line figurations, and occasional double-note passages. A new texture occurs in

these two versions of a melodic line over a chordal accompaniment.

a.

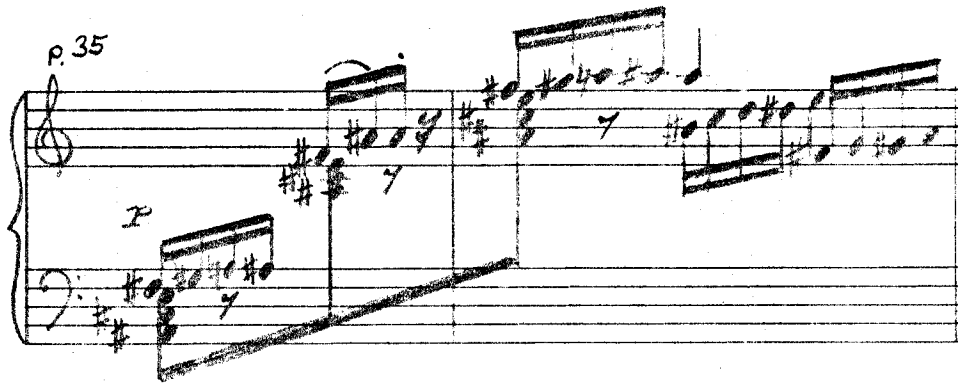
p.39 51 Andante

b.

p.39

Example 18

A new combination of chords and melodic figures is used in a passage where the piano is strictly accompanimental.



Example 19

The only cadenza in the concerto is in this movement. Its primary technical features are wide leaps expanding to an astounding distance (Example 20a) and harsh, cluster-like chords (Example 20b).

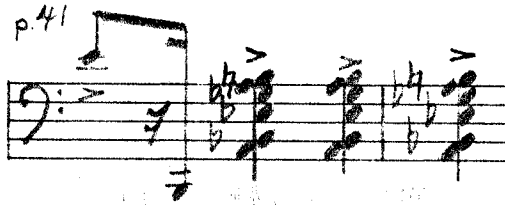
a.

p. 41

[56] *Allegro moderato*

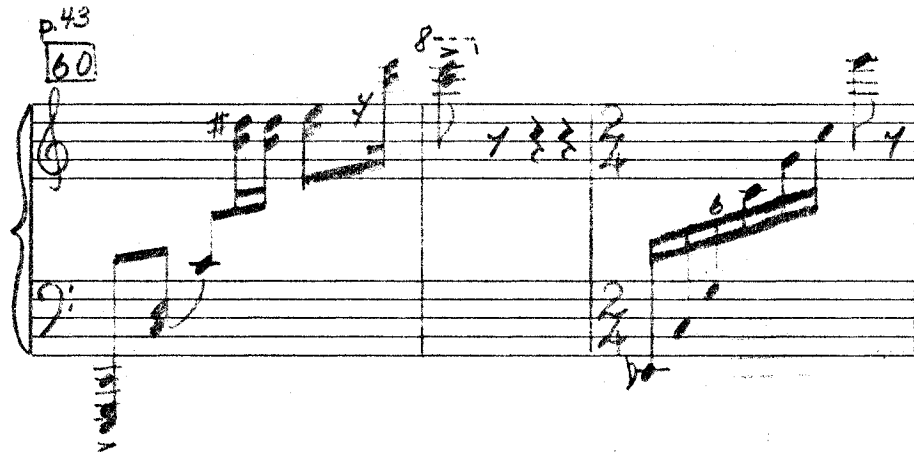
Example 20

b.



Example 20 (continued)

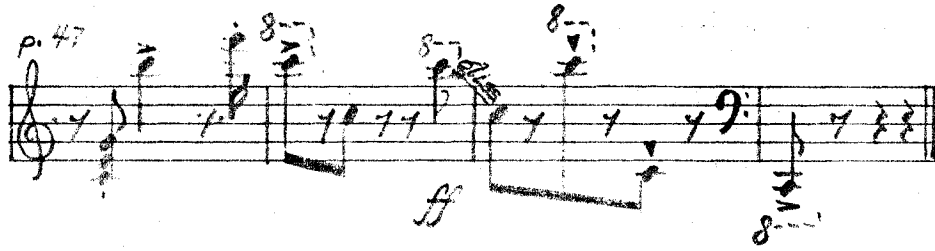
The brilliant effect of traversing most of the keyboard in one measure is a striking feature toward the end of the movement.



Example 21

This movement ends with a bravura passage employing the only glissando in the concerto and concluding with three widely spaced c's. (See Example 22, page 25.)

As mentioned above, the fourth movement draws only upon techniques employed in the first movement, thus requiring no further discussion.



Example 22

General Observations

Prokofiev has chosen his specific approach to the left-hand dilemma by concentrating upon the single line. Thicker textures, used somewhat sparingly, provide valuable contrast, yet do not challenge the orchestra as much as they inspire a spirit of interplay and cooperation. The pianist is active in 82% of the concerto's measures, by himself in approximately 5%.¹⁰ The orchestral interludes are carefully placed, and there are many short rests for the soloist throughout the score. Prokofiev has orchestrated lightly in consideration of the limited dynamic and textural range of the one-armed pianist.¹¹ In addition he generally requires lower dynamic levels. Piano is the most common designation (29%), and 47.5% of the score is marked mp or below.¹²

This concerto has achieved more success than any other

¹⁰See Chapter VII for comparison with the corresponding percentages in other works.

¹¹Two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons; two horns, one trumpet, one trombone; bass drum; strings.

¹²See Chapter VII for comparison with the corresponding percentages in other works.

in the left-hand repertory except that of Ravel, and has been recorded by Rudolf Serkin and John Browning. It is by no means profound; rather, its attraction lies in its boisterous gaiety and wittiness.

CHAPTER III

STRAUSS: PARERAGON ZUR SINFONIA DOMESTICA, Op. 73

Richard Strauss had not written a concerto for nearly forty years when Wittgenstein, in whose home the composer was visiting, asked him to compose a work for piano left-hand and orchestra. Strauss did not comply immediately, but in 1924 an episode took place which furnished a programmatic inspiration. The composer's son Franz, known in the family as Bubi, shortly after his marriage fell victim to a severe illness, which caused Strauss a great deal of anxiety. He did recover, and as an expression of relief and gratitude Strauss composed the Pareragon zur Sinfonia Domestica, scored as Wittgenstein had requested. Pareragon seems to be a word which the composer himself coined from Greek roots, its apparent meaning being "by-work," "off-shoot," "appendix," or "companion piece." Since the Sinfonia had been written twenty-two years earlier, this work is a "companion piece" only in a rather loose sense of the term. The principal connection between the two is the theme¹³

¹³This theme is quoted in Norman Del Mar, Richard Strauss: A Critical Commentary on His Life and Works (Philadelphia: Chilton Book Company, 1969), Vol. II, p. 285, Ex. 12. All other musical examples in this chapter are taken from the two-piano score, Richard Strauss, Pareragon zur Sinfonia Domestica (London: Boosey & Hawkes, 1964).

which had represented Bubi in the Sinfonia.



Example 23

In the new work Strauss subjects this theme to twisting, chromatic harmonization and distortion, suggestive of the suffering caused by the fever. A modified version of the theme, used throughout the piece, eventually triumphs over the illness, which is represented by the tone c-sharp.

Apparently Wittgenstein was pleased with the score. He gave its first performance in October, 1925, at Dresden, with Fritz Busch conducting. He also gave Strauss another commission, the result of which will be the subject of the next chapter.

Pianistic Techniques

The first eight pages of the score are taken up with a great variety of free, impassioned flourishes. These are strung together almost relentlessly, and although they are made up of predominantly single-note figures, the appearance is quite different from that of the opening of the Prokofiev concerto. The pianist's first measures are quoted here.

p.4 *in freiem, sehr leidenschaftlichem Vortrag*
(ad lib., con passione)

Example 24

Trills figure prominently from the first, both in continuous chains of trills (Example 25a) and also placed at the top of an octave melodic line (Example 25b).

a.

p.5

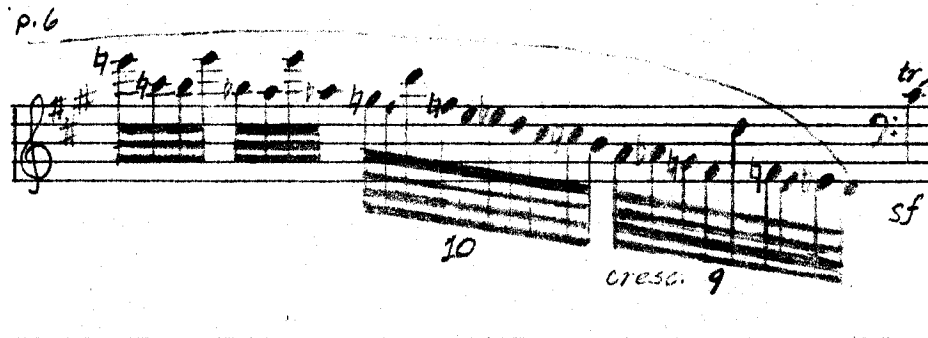
b.

p.8

Example 25

Many of the figurations are based on the chromatic scale,

and their notation in sixty-fourth-notes gives them a formidable appearance.



Example 26

This stormy opening section climaxes and concludes with an octave sweep, in thirty-second-notes, accelerando, over three-and-a-half octaves. Immediately the piano states a soaring theme in octaves, with added texture-thickening notes.



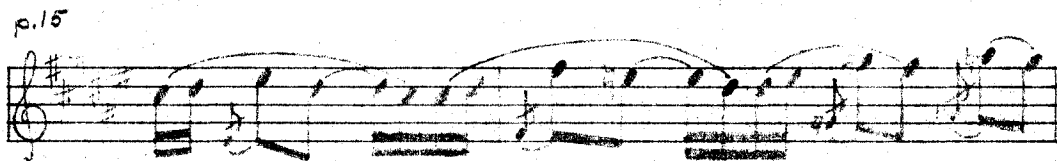
Example 27

The passagework which follows contains this type of double-note passage, full of rapid two-against-three rhythm and demanding the use of any finger on either black or white key.



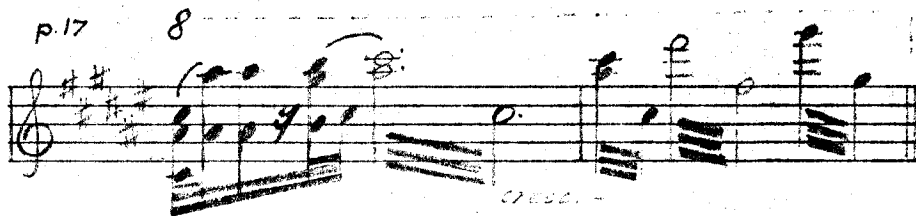
Example 28

Grace notes thicken the texture of the single line.



Example 29

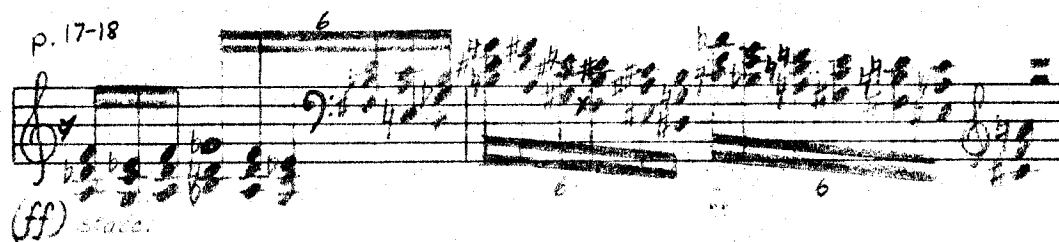
Tremolo in the higher register of the piano provides brilliance and projection over thick orchestral scoring.



Example 30

A different device is used to thicken the sonorous texture and overwhelm the Bubi theme in a passage where the piano

is primarily accompanimental—a string of six-four triads. The chromatic nature of these chords places great demands on the artist's dexterity, demands which the composer heightens by specifying staccato, fortissimo.



Example 31

To the cascading octaves used before is added a sixth above the bottom tone, and the figuration following this passage involves wide-hand-span arpeggiations in quintuplets.

Example 32

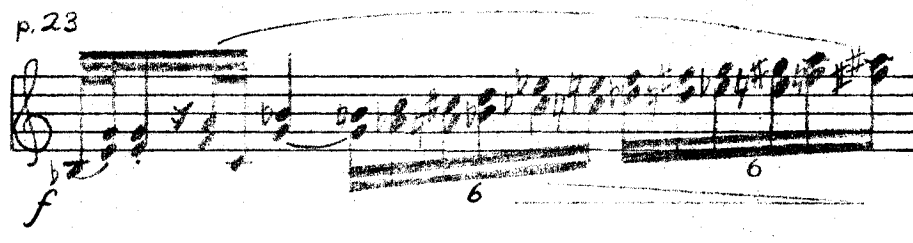
An ornamental pattern high on the keyboard continues at a fortissimo level.



Example 33

This section of the piece, all symbolic of the raging fever and the desperate victim, gradually subsides through a motivic disintegration employing double chromatic thirds (Example 34a) into a florid and delicate cadenza (Example 34b) which leads the sufferer into health-restoring sleep.

a.



Example 34

b.



Example 34 (continued)

During the symbolic sleep, suggested by the tacet piano solo, Bubi dreams of happy childhood days in the form of a simple nursery tune in the key of F, representative of health and prosperity in the Strauss household. This nursery tune is first stated by the winds, and is the longest orchestral interlude in the entire work (29 measures). Wittgenstein, for his first performance, wrote his own cadenza, which was more elaborate and extended than the original and which led into a pianistic first statement of the nursery tune.

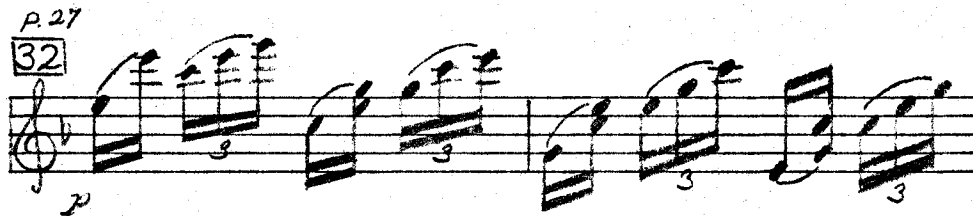
At the end of the dream, Bubi awakens refreshed, and in the piano entry which represents this is one of the trickiest ornaments ever required, relatively easy for the right hand, but physiologically uncomfortable for the left. (See Example 35, page 35.) The figurations in the remainder of the work are primarily within the realm of devices already discussed. Particularly notable are an



Example 35

arpeggiated triadic pattern (Example 36a), a brilliant chromatic scale passage with interspersed octaves (Example 36b), and a passage based on wide leaps (Example 36c).

a.



b.



c.



Example 36

General Observations

Strauss by no means ignores the single line, but treats it less melodically than ornamentally. The strong emphasis on chromatic lines demands a close-position finger technique, and often it seems that specific notes are less important than the effect of a cluster or sweep. Most of the music, however, has a texture thicker than the single line. Most often the additional notes broaden the linear concept rather than create counterpoint, as the orchestral background is generally too dense to allow clear projection of two separate lines. At no point does an imitation of two-handed sonority appear, so that in this sense Strauss's work is more completely devoted to the single-line concept, albeit thickened, than is Prokofiev's.

The pianist is active 80% of the time, only 1% of it by himself (in the very short cadenza preceding the nursery tune). In effect, then, the entire piano part must be played against instrumental competition, and Strauss did not score lightly to spare the soloist.¹⁴ Furthermore, there is very little provision made for the artist to rest, and the dynamic markings are extremely demanding. Fortissimo is the most common indication (40%), and only 25% of the piano score is mp or below.

¹⁴Two flutes, two oboes, English horn, two clarinets in A, bass clarinet in A, two bassoons, contrabassoon; four horns in E & F, two trumpets in E & C, three trombones, tuba; timpani, harp; strings.

Although less often played than the Prokofiev concerto, this work has not been totally ignored. Wittgenstein played both the Parergon and the Ravel concerto with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in 1934, and there is at present a recording available, played by Hilde Somer. With its thematic transformation and highly chromatic harmonies, however, the Parergon weighs rather heavily upon the listener and is not easy to follow.

CHAPTER IV

STRAUSS: PANATHENÄENZUG, Op. 74

Less than two-and-a-half years after the first performance of the Parerion, Wittgenstein premiered another work by Strauss, again written at his request. This time Strauss had used an ancient Greek festival, the supposed birthday of the goddess Athena, for inspiration. In this "Panathenaea" procession, an embroidered robe, on which many mythological scenes were depicted, was presented to the goddess. In order to portray the narrative effect of this elaborate tapestry, as well as the many games, contests, and sacrifices connected with the event, Strauss composed a set of continuous variations over a ground bass and entitled the work Panathenäenzug: Symphonische Etüden in Form einer Passacaglia. In spite of the variety of ornamentations employed in the treatment of the ground bass itself and the grouping of large blocks of the variations into quasi-movements, the piece lacks a certain sense of direction, perhaps as a result of a too-free use of climaxes.

In a letter of recommendation to Toscanini in 1929, Strauss praised Wittgenstein, stating that he had performed Strauss's two works with "great success," and suggesting that perhaps the maestro would see fit to program one or

both of them, an event which never took place.¹⁵

Pianistic Techniques

After a two-measure brass fanfare, the pianist begins with a brilliant flourish consisting of rapid and involved finger work, with double notes and a triadic motive in octaves interspersed in the texture. A rising line of broken chords appears, using a figuration new to our study.¹⁶

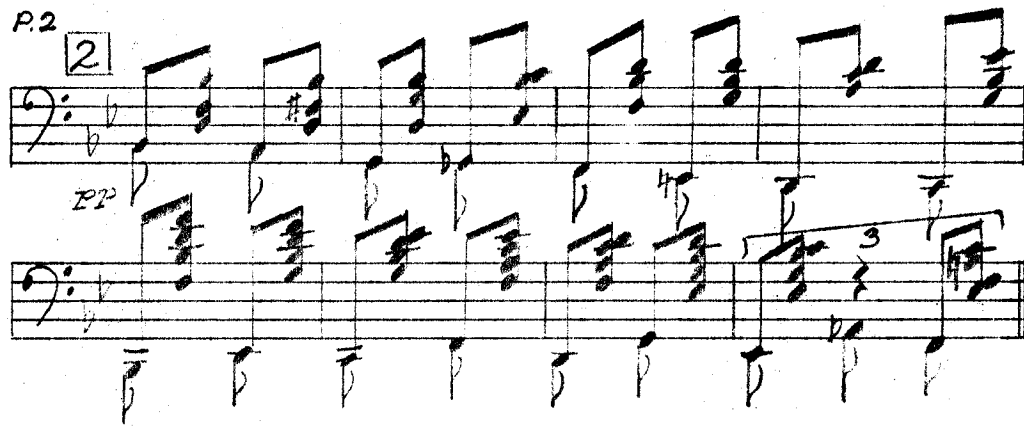


Example 37

The theme is stated by the 'cellos and basses, followed by the first two variations, in both of which the piano plays the same version of the ground bass, leaving the element of variety to the orchestra. This version involves wide skips between a single note and a chord. The passacaglia theme—the lower notes in Example 38—includes a Lydian-mode raised fourth scale-degree, a possible reference to the Greek inspiration of the work.

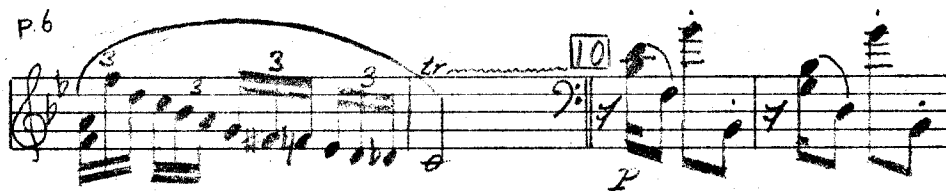
¹⁵George R. Marek, Richard Strauss: The Life of a Non-Hero (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1967), p. 325.

¹⁶All musical examples in this chapter are taken from the two-piano score, Richard Strauss, Panathenäenzug (London: Boosey & Hawkes, 1953).



Example 38

The succeeding variations increase in thickness of texture and activity, as is normal in a continuous-variation form. Single-note melodic lines, with occasional double notes, increase in speed from sixteenth-notes to sixteenth-note-triplets to thirty-second-notes. Not uncommonly two adjacent variations are either exactly or primarily identical for the piano, as the first two variations illustrate. A section alternating passagework and trills is followed by one requiring large skips.



Example 39

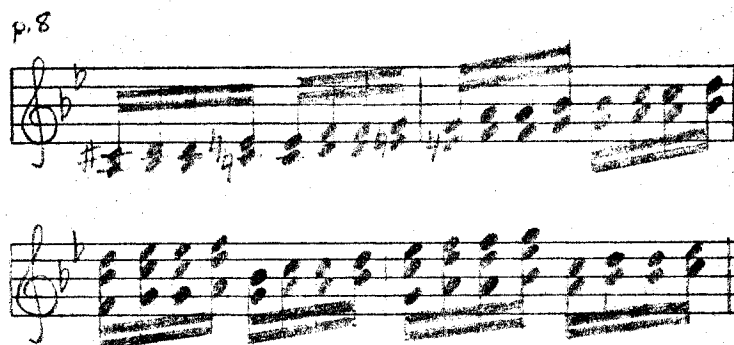
The orchestral background also grows in intensity, and

frequently it involves at least two different divisions of the beat simultaneously. Meanwhile the piano part becomes more chord-oriented.



Example 40

Techniques seen previously in this study, such as staccato double notes and parallel triads, are extended over a longer span of time.



Example 41

One can gain some idea of the thickness of the overall

texture from Example 42, which shows the printed piano reduction of the orchestral accompaniment. Triplet eighths, duplet and triplet sixteenths, and alternating quadruplet and quintuplet thirty-seconds all fuse into a large mass of sound.

p. 9
15

Example 42

After a variation built upon legato double-note passages, primarily thirds, and another variation like Example 38 but with the lower single note replaced by an octave, the orchestra gives a shortened statement of the theme alone. This allows the pianist to prepare for the following passage, one of the few places in the entire piece where the soloist is given a clearly melodic line. Only the harp accompanies the piano in this expanded variation.

p. 13-14
Getragen

p *cspn.*

con pda.

Example 43

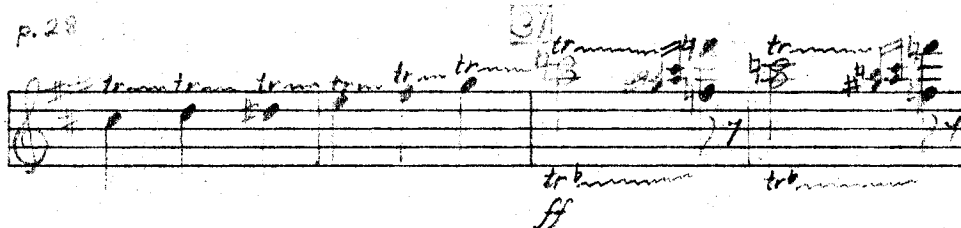
One further variation, in which the pianist plays legato double sixths in both arpeggiated and scalewise passages, completes the bridge to the second main section of the work.

p. 14

p

Example 44

The Lebhaft section introduces a new key, but calls for the piano to continue its concertante, obligato type of accompaniment. Although the figurations vary continuously, no specifically new techniques are called for. The composer uses the same arpeggios (either in single hand-spans or in broader sweeps), octaves and single notes combined in triadic motives, block triads in rapid staccato motion, and running octaves that we have noted before. At the end of this large division the pianist has two very extended variations made up of constant trills (thirty-six measures, broken only by a single run in parallel triads), several of them double trills placed high on the keyboard.



Example 45

The third main section, Sanft bewegt, again changes key, and the piano score consists of running double-note passages, rapid scales, and arpeggios. Again much of the passagework is in the piano's upper register. (See Example 46, p. 45.) The pianist is also given a version of the melody quoted in Example 43, in which the texture varies from three-voiced to melody in octaves. Against this solo part the celesta

p. 29



Example 46

provides the same sort of filigree that has occupied the piano previously.

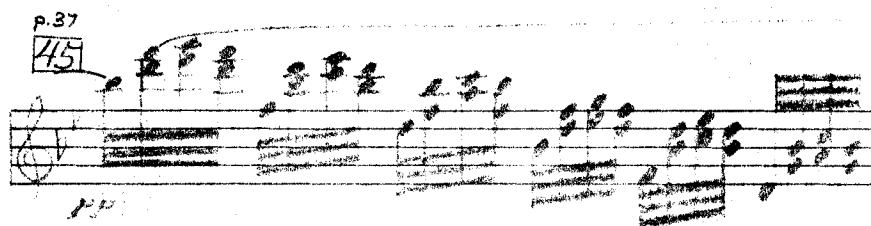
#33 Et was bewept
 42 *espn.*

Celesta

Celesta

Example 47

Very soon, however, the piano resumes its ornamental function with passagework which includes this very involved pattern.



Example 48

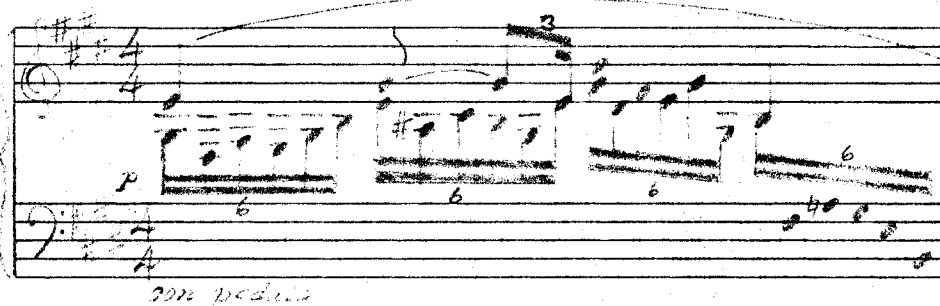
Between this large division of the work and the final one there is an idyllic cadenza. In spite of the fact that the soloist is heard alone, there is very little real imitation of a two-handed sonority. There is a demand for accurate control of balance, however, for the top notes of the figuration form a melodic line which must project over a great deal of florid passagework. The following three excerpts are all taken from the cadenza.

a.

p. 43

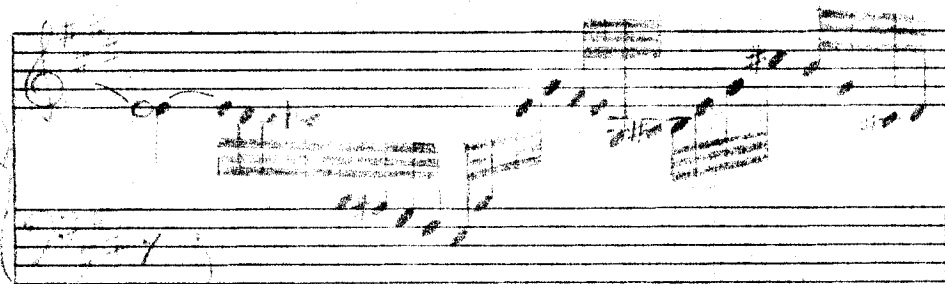
langsam

molto cantabile



Example 49

a. (continued)



b.

p.45



Example 49 (continued)

c.



Example 49 (continued)

The final section is preceded by a repetition of the work's opening fanfare and pianistic flourish. From the beginning of the Feuriges Marschtempo to the end of the composition, however, the pianist has practically nothing but patterns of varying complexity, all consisting of octaves.

a.



Example 50

b.



Example 50 (continued)

General Observations

The subjugation of the piano score to the total orchestral fabric is one of the most significant features of this work. There are only two passages where the soloist is heard alone—the opening flourish and the Langsam cadenza, and of these the first does not involve any thematic substance. Within the accompanied measures, the piano has melodic material only four times: Example 43, Example 47, the continuation of the cadenza, and, to a considerably lesser extent, the beginning of the Sanft bewegt section. Yet the piano is active a formidable 88% of the time, only 4% by itself.

The dynamic level is generally high. The most common marking is fortissimo (30%), while 34% of the score is marked mp or below. The orchestral scoring is even heavier than in the Parergon,¹⁷ and as has been pointed out, very dense

¹⁷ Three flutes (one doubling on piccolo), two oboes, English horn, two clarinets, bass clarinet, three bassoons;

textures are frequently used.

Apparently Wittgenstein would have had to develop an amazing degree of strength to be able to cope with these demands, and one source states that he complained about the heavy orchestration.¹⁸ Few other pianists seem to have attempted the work; there are at present no recordings available. Perhaps Del Mar has best characterized the piece as follows: "It is disappointing . . . to find in the minor works of so great a composer little more than an uneasy swing to and fro between the equally disconcerting pitfalls of bombast and notespinning."¹⁹

four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba; timpani, percussion (specifics not available), harp, celesta; strings.

¹⁸Lawrence and Elisabeth Hanson, Prokofiev: A Biography in Three Movements (New York: Random House, 1964), p. 233.

¹⁹Del Mar, Strauss, p. 297.

CHAPTER V

BRITTEN: DIVERSIONS, Op. 21

Benjamin Britten's contribution to the left-hand and orchestra repertory was composed in the summer of 1940. Wittgenstein had moved to the United States two years before, and apparently took advantage of Britten's sojourn in America during the early years of World War II to commission a work. The idea appealed to Britten, who wrote in the foreword to the score: "I was attracted from the start by the problems involved in writing a work for this particular medium, especially as I was well acquainted with and extremely enthusiastic about Mr. Wittgenstein's skill in overcoming what appear to be insuperable difficulties. . . . I have tried to treat the problem in every aspect."²⁰ Part of the score contained music adapted from the ballet of the secretaries in the incidental music which Britten had composed the previous year for Priestly's Johnson over Jordan.²¹

When Wittgenstein received the work, he took the liberty of revising some of the passagework, contrary to Britten's

²⁰Quoted in Joan Chissell, "The Concertos," in Benjamin Britten: a Commentary on his works from a group of specialists, ed. by Donald Mitchell and Hans Keller (New York: Philosophical Library, 1953), p. 263.

²¹William Mann, "The Incidental Music," in Britten, Mitchell and Keller, pp. 299-300.

wishes. At the expiration of Wittgenstein's period of sole performing rights, therefore, Britten reworked the score to an undetermined extent before having it published. As a result, the currently available edition is not the same as the original version of the work.²²

In its present form, Diversions consists of a theme with variations, each of which bears a subtitle, as follows:

Variation I	Recitative
Variation II	Romance
Variation III	March
Variation IV	Arabesque
Variation V	Chant
Variation VI	Nocturne
Variation VII	Badinerie
Variation VIII	Burlesque
Variation IXa	Toccata I
Variation IXb	Toccata II
Variation X	Adagio
Finale	Tarantella

Just before Variation X there is a cadenza.

Pianistic Techniques

The theme, based entirely on perfect fifths and fourths, is stated by the orchestra alone. The piano then plays the first variation unaccompanied. Several startling techniques are used immediately. There is a grace note over a leap of two octaves, a trill during which a double third is struck twice, and an upward five-note scale which, in subsequent repetitions of this figure, expands to a glissando over

²²Personal letter from Trevor Harvey, November 2, 1970. All musical examples in this chapter are taken from the two-piano score, Benjamin Britten, Diversions (London: Boosey & Hawkes, 1955).

three-and-a-half octaves.

p.2 Var. I - Recitativo
L'istesso tempo (maestoso)(d)

The image shows a musical score for piano, labeled 'p.2 Var. I - Recitativo' and 'L'istesso tempo (maestoso)(d)'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The bass staff begins with a low note, followed by a series of notes with wide intervals. Above the first measure, there is a dynamic marking 'sfz cresc.' and a hairpin crescendo. Above the second measure, there is a dynamic marking 'sfz' and a hairpin crescendo. The second system continues the musical passage, featuring a wedge-shaped passage of leaps that expands to nearly two octaves. Above the first measure of the second system, there is a dynamic marking 'cresc.' and a hairpin crescendo. Above the second measure, there is a dynamic marking 'cresc.' and a hairpin crescendo. The music is written in a style that suggests a recitative or a dramatic passage.

Example 51

The next measures include a remarkably-spaced sonority and a wedge-shaped passage of leaps, expanding to nearly two octaves. (See Example 52, page 54.)

A five-octave run, built on an eight-tone synthetic scale, leads to an octave in which the lower tone is trilled. (See Example 53, page 54.)

Handwritten musical score for Example 52. The score is written on two systems of staves. The first system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The treble staff has a handwritten "P. 2" above it. The grand staff has a handwritten "f" (forte) and "veloce" (very fast) above it. The second system also consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. The treble staff has a handwritten "Sed." above it. The grand staff has a handwritten "ff" (fortissimo) and "Sed." below it. The music features rapid, ascending and descending runs in the treble staff, and more complex, rhythmic patterns in the grand staff.

Example 52

Handwritten musical score for Example 53. The score is written on two systems of staves. The first system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The treble staff has a handwritten "p. 2-3" above it. The grand staff has a handwritten "f" (forte) and "cresc. ed accel." (crescendo and acceleration) above it. The second system also consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. The treble staff has a handwritten "5" above it. The grand staff has a handwritten "ff" (fortissimo) above it. The music features rapid, ascending and descending runs in the treble staff, and more complex, rhythmic patterns in the grand staff.

Example 53

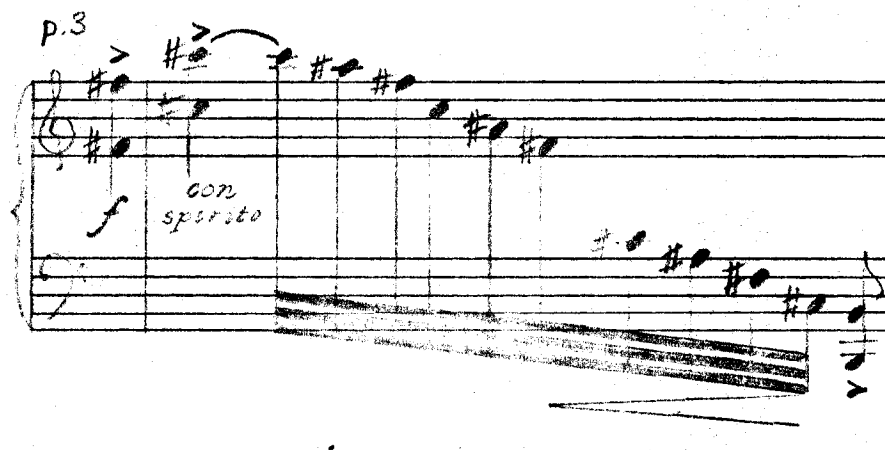
The following passage consists of wide leaps between lower octaves and higher chords, a texture which we shall find also in the opening cadenza of Ravel's concerto.



Example 54

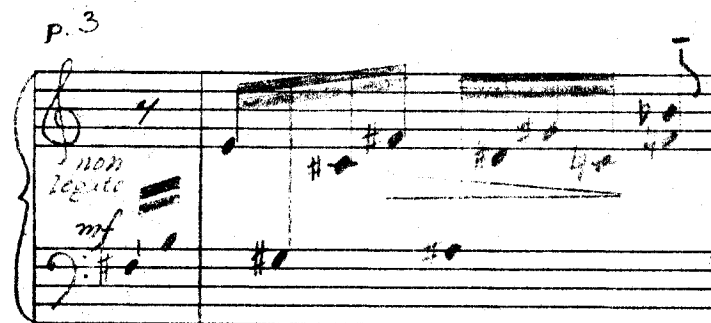
Triadic arpeggiations occur, as well as some interesting quartal figurations.

a.



Example 55

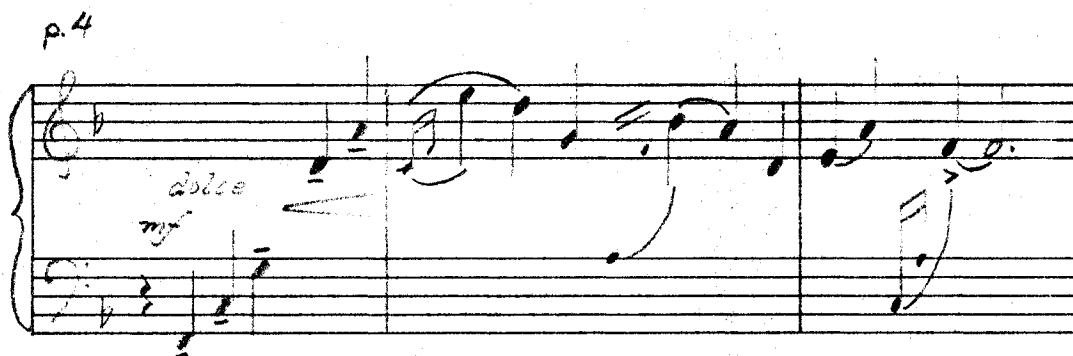
b.



Example 55 (continued)

The second variation, in which the piano and orchestra are heard together for the first time, places considerable emphasis on single-line melodic writing in four settings: single-note passages (Example 56a), similar work in octaves (Example 56b), single notes accompanied by a chord off the beat (Example 56c), and similarly accompanied octaves (Example 56d).

a.



Example 56

b.

Handwritten musical notation for example b. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano (p) dynamic, a five-measure rest (p.5), and a series of chords and single notes. A slur covers a group of notes, with a handwritten (b) above it. The piece concludes with a *poco f dim.* marking.

c.

Handwritten musical notation for example c. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano (p) dynamic, a five-measure rest (p.5), and a series of chords and single notes. A slur covers a group of notes, with a handwritten (b) above it. The piece concludes with a *poco f dim.* marking.

d.

Handwritten musical notation for example d. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The notation includes a piano (p) dynamic, a six-measure rest (p.6), and a series of chords and single notes. A slur covers a group of notes, with a handwritten (b) above it. The piece concludes with a *pizz f* marking.

Example 56 (continued)

Chordal passages of three types (Example 57a-c), including chromatic parallel triads such as we found in the Parergon (see Example 31, page 32), alternate with an

intense, brilliant type of melody (Example 57d) in the third variation.

a.

p. 8 Var. III - March
Allegro con Brio (♩. 144)



b.

p. 9



c.

p. 11



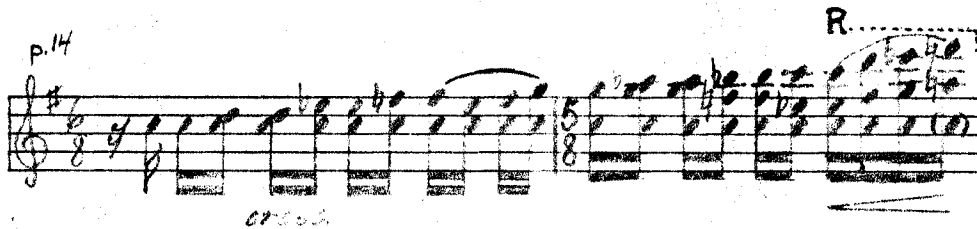
d.

p. 8



Example 57

The fourth variation is quite consistent in technique, entirely based on a step-wise melody combined with a repeated pedal-tone. Occasionally the writing involves three voices, and once it expands to the span of an eleventh. In a footnote, Britten informs the pianist that "R..." means "rubato."



Example 58

In his foreword to the score, Britten denies that he has attempted to imitate a two-handed technique.²³ Throughout the fifth variation, however, he alternates high chords with low octaves in a manner which creates a full pianistic sonority. The bass line follows the circle of fifths consistently. (See Example 59, page 60.)

The sixth variation gives all the melodic writing to solo orchestral instruments while the piano provides a background of arpeggios in ninths (two consecutive perfect fifths), using two different rhythmic patterns. (See Example 60a & b, page 60.)

²³Chissell, "The Concertos," in Britten, Mitchell and Keller, p. 263.

p.16
14 *espress.*

Example 59

a.
Var. VI: Nocturne p.18
Andante
piacevole (♩=♩)

ppp delicatissimo
con l'ed. 2da corda

b.
p.21 18

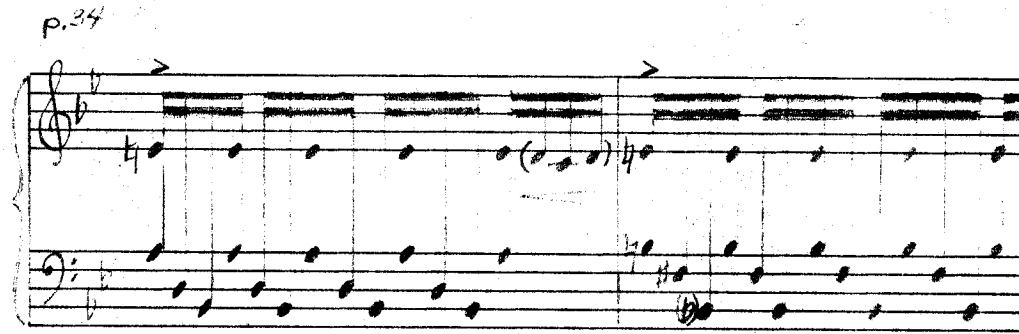
Example 60

The seventh variation consists, for the soloist, of a dance-like single-note melody, still strongly based on

fourths and fifths. The eighth variation again uses low octave and middle-range chords in alternation, and includes three short cadenzas, one for piano, the other two for flute and clarinet respectively against a sustained piano chord.

The first Toccata (Variation IXa) is primarily single-note in concept, but in a distinctly figural sense, with some intervals interspersed in the texture. It includes such wide-spread patterns as these.

a.



b.



Example 61

The second Toccata is entirely orchestral until the solo cadenza, which calls for widely-spaced isolated tones on either side of an ostinato (Example 62a) or trill (Example 62b).

a.

p. 39

Musical notation for Example 62a, page 39. The notation shows a piano (p) section and a forte (sf) section. The piano section features a trill in the right hand and a descending glissando on the black keys in the left hand. The forte section features a widely-spaced isolated tone in the right hand and a descending glissando on the black keys in the left hand.

b.

p. 40

piu tranquillo

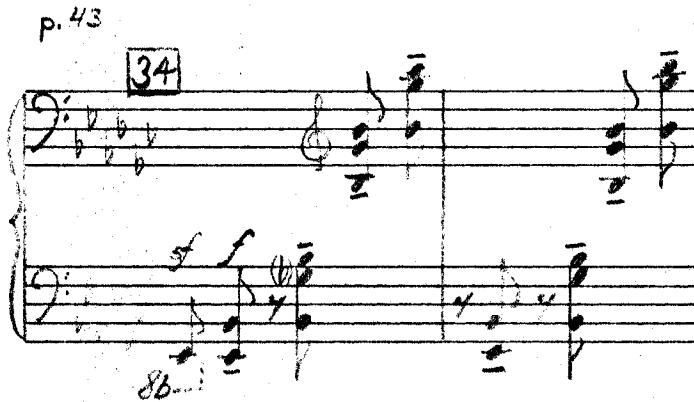
Musical notation for Example 62b, page 40. The notation shows a piano (p) section and a forte (f marcato) section. The piano section features a trill in the right hand and a descending glissando on the black keys in the left hand. The forte section features a series of ascending chords in the right hand and a descending glissando on the black keys in the left hand.

Example 62

The climax of the cadenza is reached with a six-octave descending glissando on the black keys, fortississimo.

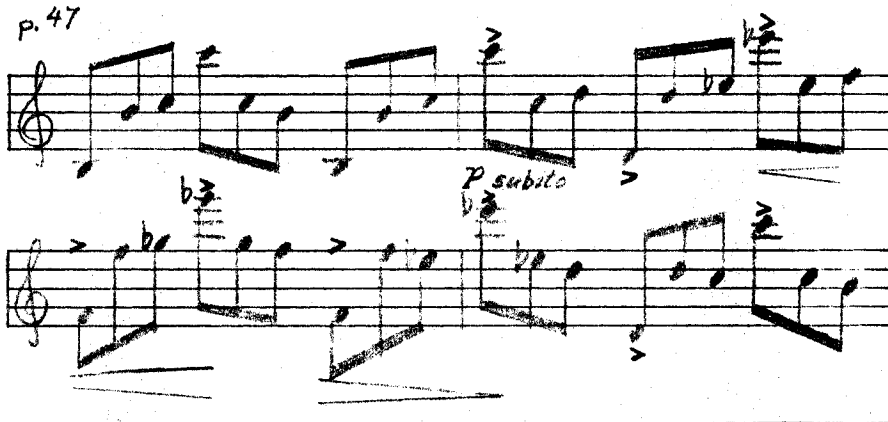
The only new device in Variation X is a series of ascending chords, quite similar in concept to the opening

of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto in b-flat.



Example 63

The Finale is almost entirely single-note in concept, including these interesting juxtaposed broken octaves.



Example 64

The work ends with a grand sweep of octaves, different from those seen before because of the interval of the fifth which replaces the more common stepwise motion.

p.55

44

Example 65

General Observations

Britten's claim to a comprehensive treatment of the single-line approach seems justified. In the Diversions he demands a great variety of techniques, but he also provides adequate, well-spaced rests for the soloist. The pianist is active 77% of the time, 13% alone. This is more than twice the amount of unaccompanied playing found in any of the other works studied so far, and the artist thus receives a greater share of the listener's attention in return for his efforts. The score is demanding dynamically. The most common indication for the soloist is forte (28%), with 37% marked mp or softer. Although the orchestra is large, the scoring is light in much of the piece, as Britten draws

on his instrumentation for variety of tone-color rather than for massive sound.²⁴

This work has not been widely performed. Part of the reason may be the disagreement between Britten and Wittgenstein over the notes to be played, as well as the fact that no one but Wittgenstein was allowed to perform this piece during the first ten years after it was written. Chissell, while noting the musical economy of the work and the composer's clever writing, suggests that this piece gives the impression of a brilliant mental solution to a problem rather than of emotionally satisfying music, an impression due, at least in part, to the "uningratiating character" of the fifths and fourths which make up the theme.²⁵ The only recording of Diversions (the revised edition), by Julius Katchen, is not readily available in the United States.

²⁴Two flutes (one doubling on piccolo), two oboes (one doubling on English horn), two clarinets, two bassoons, contrabassoon, E-flat alto saxophone; four horns, two trumpets in C, three trombones, tuba; timpani, percussion (including cymbals, xylophone, snare drum, tambourine, triangle), harp; strings.

²⁵Chissell, "The Concertos," in Britten, Mitchell and Keller, p. 263-64.

CHAPTER VI

RAVEL: CONCERTO FOR THE LEFT HAND

Maurice Ravel had just completed a highly successful American tour when Wittgenstein's agent approached him with a request for a concerto. Ravel had already determined to compose a new concerto for his own use, and was intrigued both with the special problems attending the composition of a work for left-hand and orchestra and with the challenge of simultaneously creating two works in basically the same genre, yet quite different. Both works were completed in 1931. Wittgenstein is said to have complained about the long opening solo cadenza,²⁶ and even made a few alterations in the score, at which Ravel became very upset. The rift between the two men was widely publicized, and Ravel eventually designated Jacques Février as the official interpreter of the work. Wittgenstein later admitted that his changes were not improvements, and performed the concerto a number of times.

Pianistic Techniques

After a thirty-two measure orchestral introduction,²⁷

²⁶Hanson, Prokofiev, p. 233.

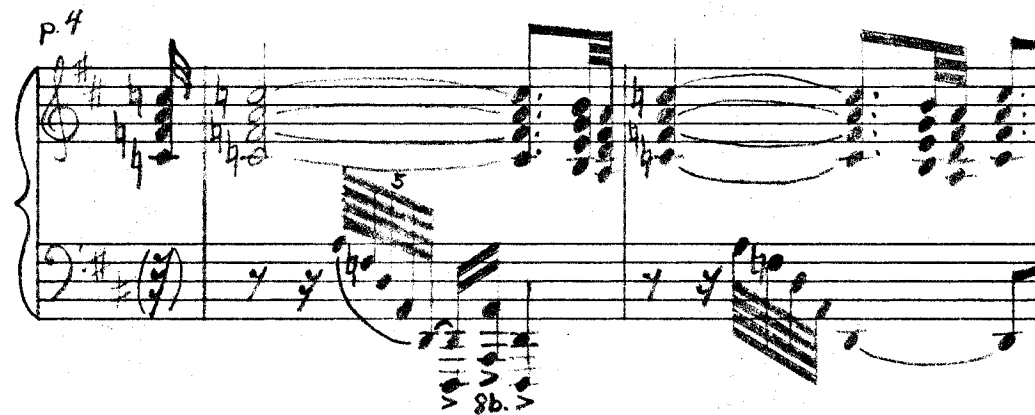
²⁷The piece is scored for two flutes, piccolo, two oboes, English horn, E-flat soprano clarinet, two B-flat clarinets, bass clarinet, two bassoons, contrabassoon; four horns, three trumpets in C, three trombones, tuba; timpani, percussion

the soloist enters with a brilliant and sonorous cadenza in which planing of octaves, either with an internal fifth (Example 66a) or with complete triads (Example 66b), is a prominent feature.²⁸

a.



b.



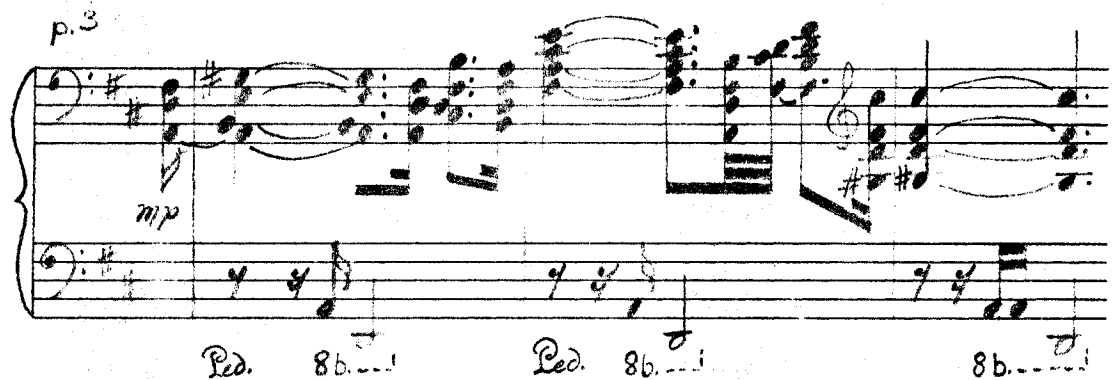
Example 66

A similar thick chordal stream supports a sustained melody, which is not doubled in octaves. Hand spans of a tenth are common in this passage, and the eleventh is occasionally

(including triangle, cymbals, bass drum, woodblock, tam-tam, snare drum), harp; strings.

²⁸ All musical examples in this chapter are taken from the two-piano score, Maurice Ravel, Concerto pour la main gauche (Paris: Durand & Cie, 1937).

required. Beneath this melodic flow there is a timpani-like pedal-figure which is slightly modified at some of its appearances.



Example 67

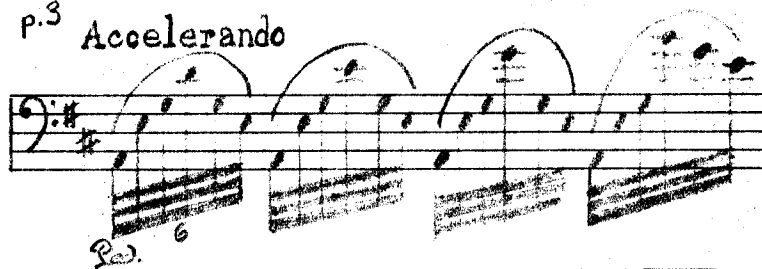
There are also massive, cluster-like chords in the lowest register of the piano, fortissimo.



Example 68

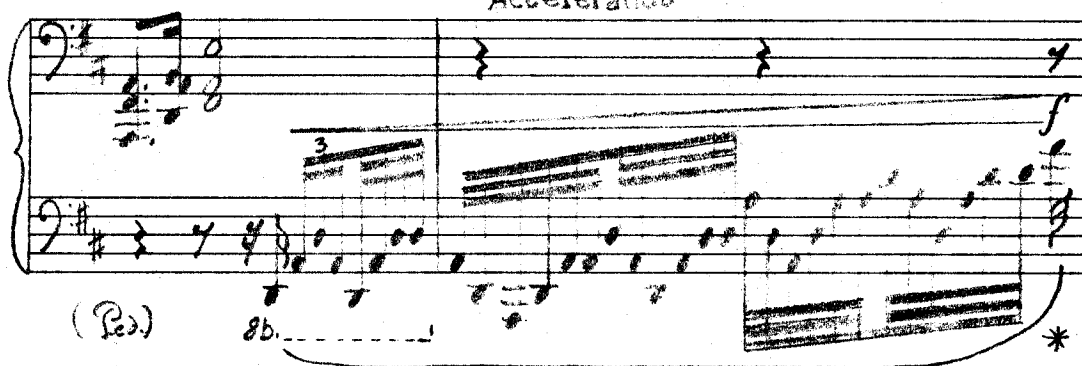
The arpeggiations in the cadenza call for very wide hand-spans (Example 69a) or make a broad sweep using only the tones of a perfect fifth (Example 69b).

a.

p.3 *Accelerando*

b.

p.4

Accelerando

Example 69

A wedge-shaped passage of expanding leaps between high chords and low octaves, more extended than the corresponding passage in Britten's Variation I, leads to a flourish of involved fingerwork, climaxing in pounding tremolos and a long glissando. (See Example 70, page 70.)

Following the cadenza, a melodic passage over an arpeggiated accompaniment imitates two-handed technique, aided by the careful use of the pedal. Two-against-three rhythms add to the effect of a full pianistic sonority. (See Example 71, page 71.)

p.5

Vivo

p subito

Ritenuito

Strepitoso

ff

gliss.

8b. 8a. 8a.

Example 70

p. 7

Rall.

Paulento
espressivo

(Ped.) * una corda Ped. Ped.

Example 71

A static spiccato figure appears, containing only two tones and their octaves, but ingenious in the variety of their arrangement.

p. 9-10

12

spiccato

senza pedale

Example 72

The next section of the concerto features rapid and staccato parallel triads and a brilliant single-line melody which recurs in different ranges of the piano, with different additions to thicken the texture. Each version, two of which are quoted here, poses its own problems of balance and consistent articulation.

a.

p.13

18



b.

p.15

22

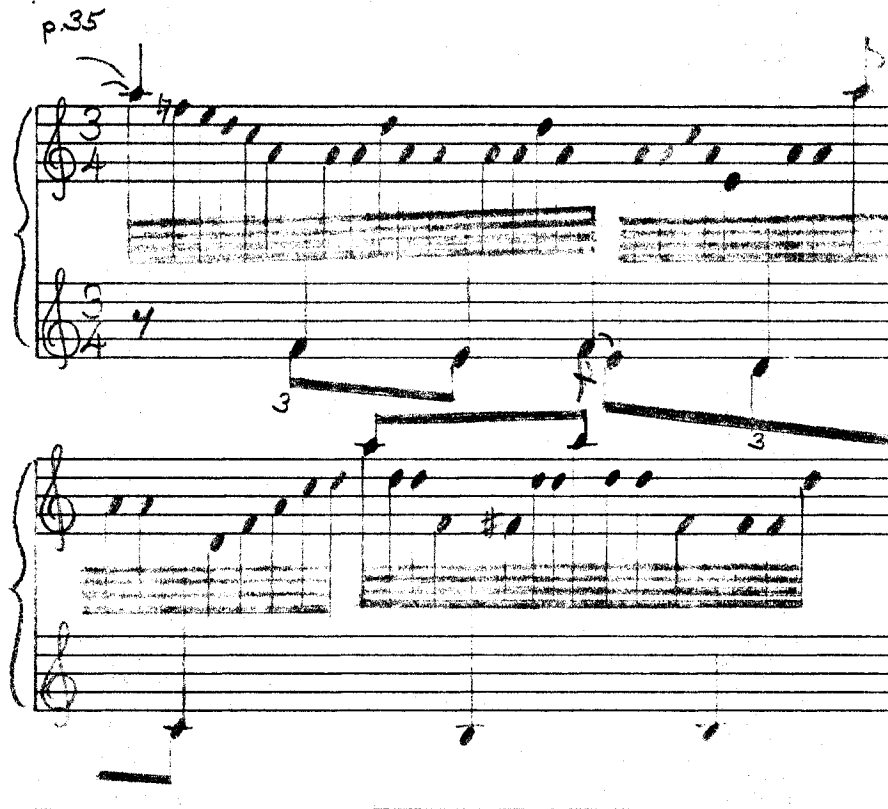


Example 73

The end of this section, leading to a return of material from the soloist's opening cadenza, features wide and rapid skips between a chord and lower tone.

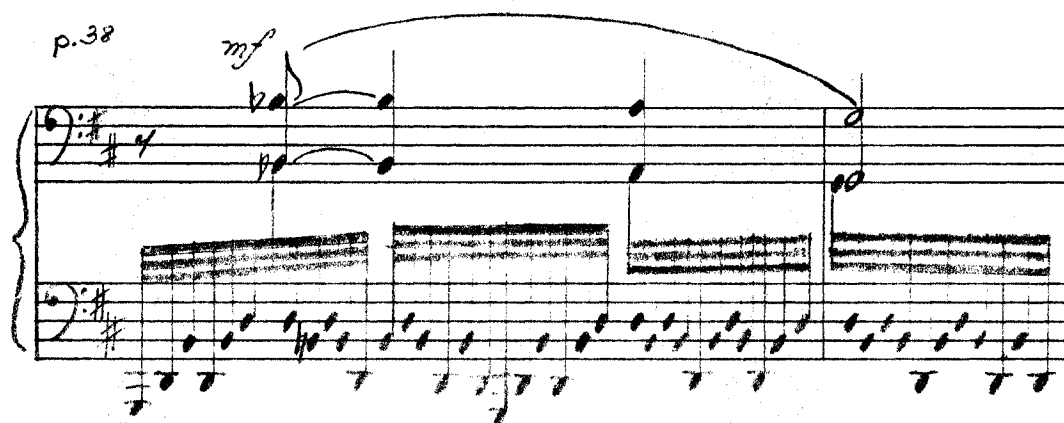
The new statement of the pianist's opening material is shared between the piano and orchestra, with the soloist providing perfect-fifth arpeggios similar to those in Example 69b, and it ends with the ultimate glissando, from the bottom A to the top C of the keyboard, fortississimo. A three-measure orchestral interlude reduces the dynamic level to piano, and the piano begins a long cadenza built of melodic material which has appeared before, but is now presented over a flowing arpeggiando accompaniment which includes occasional repeated notes. At one place in this cadenza a counter-melody appears at the bottom of the arpeggiations.

The problems of balance thus introduced, combined with the difficulty of articulating the repeated tones evenly, make this passage very demanding.



Example 74

Near the end of the cadenza, the melodic line is presented in octaves over an extremely dense arpeggiated accompaniment. This passage, low on the keyboard, provides a remarkably sonorous texture. Against this the orchestra states its own countermelodies which swell to a brilliant climax at the conclusion of the piece.



Example 75

General Observations

Ravel has devised his melodic material, particularly in the Lento sections of the concerto, in a manner which allows for the interpolation of accompanying figures without interrupting the musical flow. Although single-note arpeggiations and figurations are common, much of the piano score is devoted to chordal or polyphonic writing, and even the single-note melodies are often thickened considerably. The sonorities generally make the most of the pianist's resources, particularly through a skillful use of the pedal.

Ravel gives the orchestra much more time to play alone than the other composers we have discussed, as the piano is active only 69% of the time. A full 18%, however, is devoted to unaccompanied solo playing, so that the artist, with his two large cadenzas, gains his full share of the listener's attention as a reward for his efforts. The most common dynamic marking is piano (30%), and 42% of the score is mp or

softer. The composer has also scored carefully during those portions of the concerto where both forces are heard, so that the soloist is not often competing with a massive orchestral sound.

This concerto has achieved a certain popularity, and is occasionally played by two-armed pianists, apparently because they enjoy the music itself and the challenge which the one-hand limitation presents. Seven recordings are presently available, including performances by Wittgenstein himself, Julius Katchen, and Robert Casadesus.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY

In the discussion of each work, reference has been made to the percent of time the pianist is active and, within that, the amount of solo playing. These figures are drawn together in Table 1, providing opportunity for comparing the demands of the various pieces. In determining these percentages, the following principles were observed:

(1). If the soloist completed a passage by playing a single note or chord on the first beat of a measure which began an orchestral section, that measure was counted as orchestra alone. The same principle held for the opposite situation; i.e., where the orchestra concluded on the first beat of a soloist's measure.

(2). Eighth-note anacruses were treated similarly—when the soloist [orchestra] entered on the last fractional beat of a measure, that measure was counted for the orchestra [soloist] alone.

(3). If the orchestra [soloist] had single short chords, one to a measure, for a period of several measures, those measures were generally considered as being played by both forces together, even though the pianist [orchestra] was heard alone for the most part.

(4). If any orchestral instrument played during the measure, that measure was counted as being played together, although the orchestra might be providing no more than a sustained pedal point above which the soloist would be heard prominently.

All figures given in the table are percent of the total number of measures in the composition.

TABLE 1

Composition	Orchestra alone	Piano alone	Piano with orchestra	Piano active
Prokofiev: Concerto #4	18	5	+ 77	=32
Strauss: <u>Parergon</u>	20	1	+ 79	=80
Strauss: <u>Panathenäenzug</u>	12	4	+ 84	=88
Britten: <u>Diversions</u>	23	13	+ 64	=77
Ravel: <u>Concerto--l.h.</u>	31	18	+ 51	=69

Since corresponding figures are not readily available for the usual type of piano concerto, Table 2 gives an analysis of a number of other works, chosen to represent a wide variety of styles, as a basis for comparison. These have been arranged chronologically, and seem to show a definite trend. In the first two works, the shortest [Mozart] or most commonly used [Beethoven] cadenzas written by the composer were included in the "piano alone" column. Where necessary, unmeasured cadenzas were included by assigning approximate measure-equivalents to the passages involved.

TABLE 2

Composition	Orchestra alone	Piano alone	Piano with orchestra	Piano active
Mozart:				
Concerto, E-flat, K. 271	22	40.5	+ 37.5	=78
Beethoven:				
Concerto #4, G	26	30	+ 44	=74
Schumann:				
<u>Introduction and</u> <u>Allegro appassionato</u>	15	29	+ 56	=85
Brahms:				
Concerto #2, B-flat	29	16	+ 55	=71
Moszkowski:				
Concerto, E, Op. 59	19	14	+ 67	=81
Franck:				
<u>Symphonic Variations</u>	14	20	+ 66	=86
Bartok:				
Concerto #2	15	12	+ 73	=85
Rachmaninoff:				
<u>Rhapsody on a Theme</u> <u>of Paganini</u>	10	16	+ 74	=90

The dynamic profiles of the various works, given in each discussion in an incomplete form, provide another measure of a concerto's challenge. As with the amount of time the soloist is active, it is virtually impossible to examine all contributing factors, but Table 3 gives a general outline of the dynamic requirements. Principles observed in this analysis are as follows:

(1). Analysis was made by measure, an admittedly large unit, but one which was deemed sufficiently accurate for this study and was much less involved than analysis by beat.

(2). In long crescendos, the measures involved were divided equally among the intermediate dynamic markings. In short crescendos, the dynamic mark midway between the two extremes was selected as representing the dynamic difficulty

of the measure. In ambiguous situations, the analysis generally tended toward the louder dynamic.

(3). Sforzandos and accents on single notes or chords were ignored.

(4). Percentages are based on the number of measures in which the pianist is active, not on the total number of measures in the score.

(5). Where no dynamic marking was given at a piano entry, the passage was analyzed with reference to its nature (solo or accompaniment) and the prevailing orchestral dynamic.

One must confess certain weaknesses in applying these principles:

(1). The measure unit is larger than desirable.

(2). Dynamics are always relative, and therefore do not indicate an absolute demand upon the performer's energy.

(3). No adjustment could consistently be made for the texture, or number of notes to be played in a given passage; therefore, none was attempted.

(4). It may be almost as taxing to play rapid passage-work pianissimo as it is to play slower notes fortissimo.

It should be noted that mezzo-piano is quite rare as a printed dynamic direction, and most of the measures included in that column result from the averaging of crescendos. For each work, the most common dynamic level is set in parentheses. The Mozart and Beethoven concertos were omitted from this study because of the difficulty in determining the composer's dynamic intentions.

TABLE 3

Composition	ppp	pp	p	mp	soft	mf	f	ff	fff	loud
Prokofiev: Concerto #4	-	7	(29)	11	=47	17	21	15	-	=53
Strauss: Parergon	-	1	20	4	=25	12	20	(40)	3	=75
Strauss: Panathenäenzug	-	13	21	-	=34	10	26	(30)	-	=66
Britten: Diversions	4	9	17	7	=37	15	(28)	16	4	=63
Ravel: Concerto—l.h.	-	3	(30)	9	=42	8	24	17	9	=58
Schumann: Intro. and All'o. appass.	-	7	(36)	10	=53	12	23	12	-	=47
Brahms: Concerto #2	2	6	(32)	6	=46	7	25	22	-	=54
Moszkowski: Concerto, E	-	1	(41)	6	=48	10	23	14	5	=52
Franck: Symph. Vars.	3	(27)	13	6	=49	15	16	20	-	=51
Bartok: Concerto #2	1	9	21	6	=37	18	(24)	21	-	=63
Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody	-	4	(30)	7	=41	24	17	18	-	=59

Some interesting results are apparent from this table. Only one score (Schumann) has more than half of the pianist's work in the realm of soft playing, but most of the scores have their largest single percentage under piano, including such large-scale works as the Brahms Concerto and the Rachmaninoff Rhapsody. Even more surprising is the large amount of pianissimo scoring in Franck's brilliant Symphonic Variations. In the light of these findings, Strauss's dynamic contours are seen to be demanding to an extreme degree.

In studying the technical requirements of the various works, it is difficult to classify in words the specific

piano techniques which appear in such a wide variety of figurations. It may be helpful, however, to attempt a graphic summary of the devices which have been discussed in the preceding chapters. Table 4 presents the techniques under eight general headings: single-note passages; figures combining single-tones with intervals or chords; accompanied melodies; octaves; polyphonic and double-note passages; uses of chords; trills; and miscellaneous devices. Obviously a certain amount of overlap is inevitable; accompanied octave melodies, for example, have been listed under octaves rather than under accompanied melodies.

The numbers which follow the names of the various techniques refer to examples in the text, so that any question about the specific meaning of each description may be answered by consulting the music itself. The works are identified by the following code: Prokofiev Concerto #4--A, Strauss Parergon--B, Strauss Panathenäenzug--C, Britten Diversions--D, Ravel Concerto for the left hand--E.

TABLE 4

Technique	A	B	C	D	E
Single-note passages					
Melody (1a)	x	x	x	x	x
Arpeggios (1b, 60a&b)	x	x	x	x	x
Figurations (11, 24)	x	x	x	x	x
Synthetic scale runs (42, 53)			x	x	x
Two-note <u>spiccato</u> (72)					x
Bravura leaps (52)	x			x	
Combined figures					
Arpeggios with octaves (10)	x		x		
Chromatic scales with octaves (36b)		x			
Single-note figurations with intervals or octaves interspersed (19, 61a&b)	x	x	x	x	x

TABLE 4 (continued)

Technique	A	B	C	D	E
Combined figures—continued					
Skips between chords and lower tones or octaves (38, 54)	x		x	x	x
Accompanied melodies					
Chordal accompaniment (18a&b, 56c, 67)	x			x	x
Arpeggiated accompaniment (49a-c)			x		x
Arpeggiated accompaniment, with counter-melody (74)					x
Pedal-point accompaniment (58)	x			x	
Octaves					
Melody (8)	x	x	x	x	x
Melody with chordal accompaniment (56d)				x	
Melody with arpeggiated accompaniment (75)					x
Figurations (50a&b)	x	x	x	x	x
Planing with inner fourth, fifth or sixth (32, 66a)		x			x
Planing with complete triad (66b)					x
Polyphony and double notes					
Two voices, note against note (14a)	x				
Two voices, unequal note values (14b, 28)	x	x			
Staccato double notes (41)	x		x		
Legato double thirds and sixths (34a, 44)		x	x		
Parallel ninths (5a&b)	x				
Three-voice texture (15)	x		x	x	x
Chords					
Block chords (57a, 63)				x	
Repeated block chords (57b)				x	
Cluster-like chords (20b, 68)	x				x
Planing triads (31, 57c)		x		x	x
Planing broken triads (37)			x		
Broken triads with double neighbor tones (48)			x		
Trills					
Trills (25a)	x	x	x	x	x
Trill on top or bottom of octave (25b, 53)		x		x	
Trill with extra tones (51, 62b)				x	
Double trills (45)			x		
Tremolos (30, 70)		x			x
Miscellaneous					
Grace notes (29, 56a)		x		x	x
Glissando (51)	x			x	x
Rhythmic two-against-three (71)	x	x			x
Quasi-two-hand sonority (16, 43)	x			x	x

The resulting profiles of the various works are interesting. Certain devices are found in all the works and seem to form a basic technical vocabulary for left-hand pianism. These include single-line melodies, arpeggios, and figurations; passages combining single tones with intervals or chords; octave melodies and figurations; and trills. Other devices appear in only one piece, and these usually are either extremely demanding (such as double trills) or are the result of a composer's specific musical idiom (such as Prokofiev's lines in parallel ninths).

How do these techniques compare with those normally required of the left hand? It might well be possible, given unlimited time and a vast knowledge of the piano repertory, to match each item in Table 4 with a similar passage from a specific composition. Diatonic melodies, for instance, occur in the lower voices of the Bach Inventions, and left-hand arpeggios are common in the Chopin Nocturnes, while octave passages for the left hand abound in Liszt's music.

Other technical devices which occur here are made more difficult by the removal of the right arm. A classic example of bravura leaps between a high chord and low octave occurs at the end of the second movement of Schumann's Fantasy, Op. 17. At the same time, however, the right hand is engaged in similar leaps in the opposite direction, providing a balancing force which the one-armed artist does not have.

There are also some figurations in these works which rarely, if ever, are required in traditional keyboard

technique. An example would be the broken triads with double neighbor tones in the Panathenäenzug, or the trill with extra tones on both sides in the cadenza of the Diversions.

The available works for piano left-hand and orchestra have been seen as different approaches to the same goal: complete independence for the left hand, the ability to be heard alone and to compete successfully with the full orchestra. To the extent that they have increased the demands made upon the normally weaker half of the pianist's physical equipment, the composers involved have expanded the resources of all keyboard artists.

APPENDIX

MUSIC FOR PIANO LEFT-HAND AND ORCHESTRA

In this table, the date given is the date of composition, not of publication. An asterisk (*) indicates that the work is permanently out of print; a plus-sign (+) indicates that the location of the manuscript is unknown.

Composer	Title and Date	Publisher	Written for
Bax, Sir Arnold	<u>Concertante</u> --1948	Chappell	Harriet Cohen
Bortkiewicz, Sergei	Concerto #2 in E-flat, Op. 28--?	Rahter*	Paul Wittgenstein
Braun, ^a Rudolf	Concerto--?	Doblinger*	Paul Wittgenstein
Britten, Benjamin	<u>Diversions</u> , Op. 21 1940	Boosey & Hawkes	Paul Wittgenstein
Demuth, Norman	Concerto--1947	Manuscript+	(Harriet Cohen?)
Demuth, Norman	<u>Legend</u> --1949	Manuscript+	(Harriet Cohen?)
de Groot, Cor	<u>Variations imaginaires</u> 1962	Manuscript ^b	?
Hindemith, Paul	<u>Klaviermusik</u> , Op. 29 1923	Manuscript+	Paul Wittgenstein
Korngold, Erich	Concerto in C-sharp, Op. 17--1923	Schott	Paul Wittgenstein
Labor, Joseph	Concerto--1917-18	Universal (?)	Paul Wittgenstein
Prokofiev, Sergei	Concerto #4 in B-flat, Op. 53--1931	International	Paul Wittgenstein
Ravel, Maurice	<u>Concerto for the left hand</u> --1931	Durand	Paul Wittgenstein

^aNot listed in MGG, Grove's (5th ed.), or Baker's. A blind composer who studied with Labor, as did Wittgenstein.

^bReproduced by Donemus; a copy is at New York Public Library.

Composer	Title and Date	Publisher	Written for
Schmidt, Franz	<u>Concertante Variationen</u> —1924	Universal ^c	Paul Wittgenstein
Schmidt, Franz	Concerto in E-flat 1935	Universal ^c	Paul Wittgenstein
Strauss, Richard	<u>Parergon zur Sinfonia Domestica</u> , Op. 73—1925	Boosey & Hawkes	Paul Wittgenstein
Strauss, Richard	<u>Panathenäenzug</u> , Op. 74 1927	Boosey & Hawkes	Paul Wittgenstein
Zichy, Geza	Concerto in E-flat, 1902	Rahter*	Geza Zichy

^cPublished in arrangements (by the composer) for two-hands and orchestra.

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