
Sonata for Horn & Piano

By Jon F. Howe

Perusal Score

Duration: 22 min

OCTOBER 2021

Program Notes

Sonata for Horn and Piano is a snapshot of various aspects of my life across its period of composition. Originally started in 2018, this piece was born out of myself finding a way to cope with the loss of my uncle. At its core, this piece is about my depression and going through the grieving process. While not intentional, you can ascribe one of the five stages of grief to each movement. *Lament* aligns with anger, *Ballade* aligns with denial, *Nocturne* aligns with depression, *Interlude* aligns with bargaining, and *Scherzo and Finale* aligns with acceptance. As a result of this synchronicity, I have unofficially dubbed this piece the "Grief Sonata."

Because this piece was written over a 3-year period, this piece also serves as a snapshot of how my compositional approach has changed over time. Elements that would later become more adopted into my core compositional style started within some of these movements. *Interlude* is based upon a short improvisatory horn call I had once performed. *Nocturne* takes harmonic elements that I initially explored in *Lament* and further develops them. Both *Lament* and *Scherzo and Finale* explore my relationship with quoting other works. Throughout the fifth movement there are paraphrases and quotations of Paul Dukas' *Villanelle* (1905) whereas *Nocturne* paraphrases and alludes to Chopin's *Nocturne*, Op. 9, No. 1 (1832). Quotation, and the interplay of how the quoted material fits within my own compositions have become core elements of my compositional style, even quoting some of my own previous works within other movements of this piece.

Sonata for Horn and Piano was not completed in numerical order. The order of completion was as follows; *Ballade* (2018), *Lament* (2019), *Interlude* (2020), *Scherzo and Finale* (2020-21), and *Nocturne* (2021).

Duration

- I. Lament: 5 minutes
- II. Ballade: 4 minutes
- III. Nocturne: 7 minutes
- IV. Interlude: 1 minute
- V. Scherzo and Finale: 5 minutes

Total Duration: 22 minutes

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Sonata for Horn & Piano

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I. Lament

Reflective $\text{♩} = 72$ rit.....

mf *p* *f* *8va^{tr} loco*

6a tempo *p* *mf* accel.....

10A Intense $\text{♩} = 126$ *ff*

The musical score is written for Horn and Piano. The Horn part is in the upper staff, and the Piano part is in the lower staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Reflective' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The score includes a 'rit.' (ritardando) instruction. The Piano part features a '8va^{tr} loco' instruction, indicating an octave transposition. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 6 and 10 indicated. The Piano part includes a 'p' (piano) marking and a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) marking. The Horn part includes a 'p' (piano) marking and a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) marking. The score concludes with a 'ff' (fortissimo) marking.

14

mf

mf

18

B

f

mf

22

C

ff

mf sub.

26

rubato

mp

mp sub.

8va

p

31 D

pp *mp* *mp*

pp *mp* *mp*

Red.

(8)

34

mp *mp* *mp*

37

mp *mp* *mp*

40

mp *mp* *mp*

rit.....

43

p *mf* *tr*

E a tempo

46

tr *3* *3* *3* *5* *p* *mf* *p*

51

p *mf* *p* *f*

55

mp *mf*

61 F

p *ff*

66

mf *f* *mp*

70

mf *ff* *mf*

74 G

p *mf* *f*

78

tr

81

mf
tr

84

H

f
p sub.

88

rubato

I

mp
mp
8ba

93

mf

cresc.

f

mp

(8)

97

J a tempo

ff

cresc.

ff

101

mf

f

mf

p

105

K

mf

mf

109

ff

113

rubato

mp

f

pp

118

L

mp

mp

Red.

121

mp

124

mp

127

mp

130

rit..... M Reflective ♩ = 86

mp

p

133

rit.....

ff

136

l.v. p 8va 8ba

II. Ballade

Solemn, with a somber tone $\text{♩} = 66$

A dolce mp mf

mf mp dolce

7 rit..... a tempo B

f p sub. 8va mf p sub. pp

f p sub. 8va mf p sub. pp

14

mf p mf p

mf p mf p

C

rubato

21

Measures 21-23 of the musical score. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*).

24

Measures 24-26 of the musical score. Measure 24 features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) chord in the right hand. Measures 25-26 continue the melodic and accompanimental patterns with piano (*p*) dynamics. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 25.

27

Measures 27-29 of the musical score. Measure 27 has a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 28 includes a piano (*p*) sub-octave (*p sub.*) in the left hand. Measure 29 features a piano (*p*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. A trill is marked in the right hand of measure 28.

30

Measures 30-32 of the musical score. Measure 30 has a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 31 features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 32 includes a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a key signature change to three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 3/4 time signature.

33 **D** a tempo

f *mp* *mp*

40 **E**

f *mf* *mf* *pp* *pp*

47

p *pp* *mp* *f*

51

p *mp* *p*

55

F

mp *mf* *mf*

62

rit.....

8va

68

a tempo **G**

p sub. *pp* *mf* *mf*

(8)

74

f *mp* *p* *p*

III. Nocturne

Solemn $\text{♩} = 72$

First system of the 'Solemn' section. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The tempo is marked 'Solemn' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute.

Second system of the 'Solemn' section. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The tempo is marked 'Solemn' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute.

Third system of the 'Solemn' section. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The tempo is marked 'Solemn' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute.

Fourth system of the 'Solemn' section. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The tempo is marked 'Solemn' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute.

Flowing $\text{♩} = 108$

Fifth system of the 'Flowing' section. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The tempo is marked 'Flowing' with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute.

22

(8)

8va

mp

mf sub.

(Leo.)

25

C

8va

p

28

8va

p

f

31

8va

loco

3

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piano and voice piece. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 22-24) begins with a piano introduction in the right hand, marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The vocal line enters in measure 22 with a melody. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The second system (measures 25-27) continues the piano introduction. The vocal line has a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note pattern. The third system (measures 28-30) shows a change in the piano introduction. The vocal line has a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern. The fourth system (measures 31) continues the piano introduction. The vocal line has a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

34

f

8^{va}

mf

37 **D**

f

mp

8^{va}

40

mp

8^{va}

43 **E**

(8)

loco

3

8^{va}

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system (measures 34-36) features a vocal line starting with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment has a bass line with eighth notes and a treble line with chords. The second system (measures 37-39) is marked with a key signature change to D major (indicated by a 'D' in a box) and a forte 'f' dynamic. The vocal line has a half note D5, followed by a half note E5, and then a half note F#5. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. The third system (measures 40-42) is marked with a mezzo-forte 'mp' dynamic. The vocal line has a half note G5, followed by a half note A5, and then a half note B5. The piano accompaniment features a more complex rhythmic pattern. The fourth system (measures 43-45) is marked with a mezzo-forte 'mp' dynamic and a key signature change to E major (indicated by an 'E' in a box). The vocal line has a half note C6, followed by a half note D6, and then a half note E6. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble line. A large diagonal watermark 'PONSAL SCORE' is overlaid across the entire page.

46

mp

(8)

f

49

mp

(8)

f

52

F

loco

mf

mf

3

54

3

3

56

mp

mf

p

ad lib. 8^{va}

58

mp

p

loco

8^{va}

60

p

mf

p

mf

ad lib. 8^{va}

62

p

mf

3

3

3

7

5

64

mp *f*

3 3 3

66

mf *ad lib. 8va*

3 3 3

loco

8va

68

ff *mf*

5 3

f *mf*

3 3 3

70

f

3 3 3

73 **G**

mp sub.

76 *mp*

ad lib. 8^{va}

79 *p*

ad lib. 8^{va}

loco

82 *f*

8^{va}

f

The musical score is for a piano and voice piece. It begins at measure 73 with a piano introduction marked 'G'. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The voice part enters at measure 76 with a melody. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large 'Perusal Score' watermark is overlaid on the page.

85 **H**

mp *f*

loco *f* *8va*

88 *mf* *f* *mf sub.* *f*

91 *p* *p*

94 *mf* *f* *8va* *loco*

3

Perusal Score

97

mf

p

mp

p

100

I

8va

3

103

loco

p

f

5

5

5

106

The musical score consists of four systems of staves. The first system (measures 97-99) shows a piano part with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 100-102) includes a first ending bracket labeled 'I' and an octave shift marked '8va'. The third system (measures 103-105) features a 'loco' section and a forte 'f' dynamic. The fourth system (measures 106-108) continues the piano part with complex chordal textures. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *f*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 3, 5, and 8. A large diagonal watermark 'Perusal Score' is present across the page.

108

110

J Freely (cadenza)
play with bell into piano*

112

keep pedal depressed to allow for resonance

*to be played on natural harmonics

113

p *mf* *dim.* *p* *ppp* *slow roll*

IV. Interlude

Slow, with rubato ♩ = 60

mf *mp* *f*

8

mp *ff* *p*

12

p *pp* *n*

attaca

V. Scherzo and Finale

Freely (quasi meterless)

mp

poco rit.....

10 **A** With a drunken humor ♩ = 132

f

mf

16

22 **B**

f

The musical score is written for piano and violin. The piano part is in 6/8 time and features a complex, rhythmic accompaniment. The violin part is in 6/8 time and features a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics. The score is divided into sections A and B. Section A starts at measure 10 and ends at measure 22. Section B starts at measure 22 and ends at measure 29. The tempo is marked 'Freely (quasi meterless)' and 'poco rit.'. The dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to fortissimo (f).

28

Measures 28-33 of the musical score. The bass line is a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The right hand has rests in measures 28-30, followed by a chordal figure in measures 31-32, and a final eighth-note pattern in measure 33.

Measures 34-39. Measure 34 is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measures 35-39 feature a melodic line in the right hand with a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in measure 39. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern.

Measures 40-45. Measures 40-41 show a melodic line in the right hand with a crescendo. Measures 42-45 feature a melodic line in the right hand with a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in measure 45. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern.

Measures 46-51. Measure 46 is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measures 47-51 feature a melodic line in the right hand with a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in measure 51. The bass line continues with the eighth-note pattern.

52

System 52-57: Treble clef is empty. Bass clef has a piano introduction with eighth notes in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. A forte (f) dynamic marking appears at measure 55.

58

System 58-63: Treble clef has a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic marking at measure 60. Bass clef continues the piano accompaniment.

64

System 64-69: Treble clef has a melodic line. Bass clef continues the piano accompaniment.

70

E

System 70-75: Treble clef has a melodic line with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic marking at measure 71. Bass clef continues the piano accompaniment with a series of eighth notes.

76 rit.....

76 77 78 79 80 81 82

83 F Slightly slower $\text{♩} = 112$

83 84 85 86 87 88

90

90 91 92 93 94 95 96

97

97 98 99 100 101 102 103

103 G

mp

mp

109

f

116

8va

p sub.

f

123 H

mf

p

mf

✱

130

mf

mp

Ped.

136

I

f

mp

8va

143

mp

f

8va

149

mp

f

8va

155 J With a drunken humor ♩ = 132

f

mf

161

167 K

173

179

L

f *mf* *8va* *loco*

185

8va *loco*

191

M

mf *f* *mf*

197

brassy *ff* *f*

203

f

209

215

221

227

f

233

O Slower ♩ = 72

ff *mp* *ppp*

Red.

243

ff

250

P ♩ = 132

f *fff*

8va

258 **rit.**..... **string.**..... **Q** **Faster** ♩ = 144

mf *f* *mp* *f*

268

273 **accel.**..... **Resolute** ♩ = 50

ff *ff* *ff*

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Perusal Score