

# Five Preludes

for piano solo

Richard Whalley

# Five Preludes

for piano solo

<i>Two Lines Transcended</i>	page 2
<i>A Butterfly Flaps Its Wings</i>	page 4
<i>Still Waters</i>	page 10
<i>Humpty Dumpy</i>	page 12
<i>Masquing the Medusa</i>	page 14

## Programme note

*Masquing the Medusa* is a tribute to my friend and colleague John Casken, and was composed for a concert celebrating his work at Manchester University in January 2008. This short prelude pays homage to him by taking ingredients from two of his compositions and putting them together in my own way. The notes of the melody are taken from the oboe part of *Masque* and the accompaniment figure stems from a prominent figure in the piano part of *Blue Medusa*.

The remaining preludes were composed during the spring of 2009, born from a feeling that *Masquing the Medusa* needs to be part of something bigger. For me there's something very tantalizing about miniatures, each offering glimpse of a different world. I think of these as preludes in the Debussian sense; he deliberately placed the titles of each his preludes at the end of the music, so that people would be free to revel in their own associations and imagery, and not be too influenced by his titles. My titles were thought up after composition of the preludes, so I would encourage performers and listeners to do the same here.

This set of preludes was selected as a Winner of the International Music Prizes for Excellence in Composition Competition, 2009.

**Total duration: c. 12 mins**

# Two Lines, Transcended

Richard Whalley

With a clear sense of line and forward momentum, ♩ = 108

Piano solo

near  
*p*

distant  
*pp* "Fingerpedal" within slurs (as shown below)

etc.

near  
*pp*

(*pp*)

near  
*pp*

near  
*p*

*meno p*

*p*

near  
*p*

34

39

Rhythmic

*mf*  
*fp*

normal legato:  
no more fingerpedal

43

*poco a poco cresc.*

sempre legato

Rushing slightly

Rushing more noticeably

46

*f*

*ff*

*dim.*

(Ped.)

Molto rit.

A tempo; slightly held back

49

*ff*

*mf*

*p*

almost legato

legato

(slowly release ped.)

loco

More held back

52

*più p*

*pp*

# A Butterfly Flaps Its Wings

Richard Whalley

**Fast** ♩=132+

Piano solo

*pp legato*

with *Ped.*

*p*

4

*poch. cresc.*

slow release of *Ped.*

**Slower, with rubato, pushing forwards**

8

*p always legato*

\* without *Ped.*

10

*mf*

*espress.*

*p*

**Subito Tempo I**

*pp*

(with *Ped.*)

12

*p*

15

(9)

(*Ped.*)

\*

19 (9)

(Ped.) \* p

23

27

mf meno p

31

35

f (Ped.) \*

39 As before

p crescendo

f f

Tempo I ; bring out rising lines

41 *mf* 6 6 6 6 6 6

44 6 6 6 6 6 6

47 *f* non legato

49 *ff* legato 6 6 6 6 6 6 *p crescendo* 3 *sfz*

51 *più cresc.* 3 6 6 6 6 6

54

*f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *più cresc.*

57

*ff* *sfz* *sfz*

As before

59

*p* *poco a poco crescendo*

(Pressing forwards)

(Not too slow)

*ff* *sfz*

Middle Ped →

Tempo I

61

*p*  
*mf*  
M.P.

64

(L.H.) *sfz*  
*pp*  
M.P.  
*più p*

67

*sfz*  
M.P.

70

M.P.

74

(senza rit.)  
(R.H.)  
*diminuendo*  
M.P.

79

*pp*  
M.P.  
*ff*

Slower, once more

[ blank page ]

# Still Waters

Extremely calm,  $\text{♩} = 40$

Richard Whalley

Piano solo

ppp ppp ppp ppp

Ped. PP Ped. p \*

5

p ppp p

Ped. \*

8 expressive

meno *p* (dim.) più *p*

\*

12 non arp. warm

p

\*

16 concentrated non arp.

meno *p* pp

\*

19

non arp.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*p*

*ppp*

22

non arp.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*p*

*pp*

mechanical

*pp*

heavy

*p*

*Ped.*

27

*mf*

*pp marcato*

*p*

*Ped.*

30

more intense

*fp*

*p*

meno *p*

*Ped.*

32

even more intense

*f*

*fff*

*mf*

*Ped.*

# Humpty Dumpty

Richard Whalley

Lively, with forward motion, ♩ = 160

Piano solo

*p* *(p)*

*p* *mf*

*pp*

Quicker  
♩ = 160  
*f* *ff*

*p*

quasi legato  
una corda (right foot)

Middle Ped.  
(left foot)  
(CROSS FEET!)

39

M.P.

43

M.P.

mf

sfz

tre corde

47

M.P.

sfz

f

51

M.P.

sfz

55

M.P.

cresc.

sfz

fff

Accel.

59

M.P.

ff

poco dim.

pp

A tempo

Poco rit.

A tempo

(con poco pedale)

# Masquing the Medusa

for John Casken

Richard Whalley

Expressive with rubato ♩ = 48

Piano solo

With pedal

*ppp* *p* *molto cantabile* *ppp*

Detailed description: This block contains the first three measures of the piece. The music is written for piano solo in 3/4 time. The right hand starts with a series of eighth notes, followed by a melodic line with a triplet. The left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. Performance instructions include 'Expressive with rubato', a tempo of 48 beats per minute, and dynamic markings of *ppp*, *p*, and *molto cantabile*. A 'With pedal' instruction is placed below the first measure.

4

*mf* (always in relief) *ppp*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 4 through 6. The right hand features a melodic line with a triplet and a fermata. The left hand continues with eighth notes. Performance instructions include a dynamic marking of *mf* with the note '(always in relief)' and a *ppp* marking in the left hand.

7

(pushing forward very slightly) *p* *ppp*

(release ped) (ped)

Detailed description: This block contains measures 7 and 8. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet and a fermata. The left hand has a triplet and a fermata. Performance instructions include '(pushing forward very slightly)', dynamic markings of *p* and *ppp*, and pedal instructions '(release ped)' and '(ped)'.

9

(becoming more expansive) *cresc.*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 9 through 12. The right hand features a melodic line with triplets and a fermata. The left hand has a triplet and a fermata. Performance instructions include '(becoming more expansive)' and a *cresc.* marking.

