

Piece 4: 'Comique', about note repetition and lines

Piece 4 'Comique' ('Funny') from 'Fantasia' of Oscar van Hemel (1892–1981) is a nice play of note repetition and lines. In other words, of halting and moving.

It is worked out in the ternary form A–B–A. The form elements of section A and section B is the eight–bar period.

The eight–bar period has two four–bar phrases, where the first one (the antecedent) has an open ending (the 'question') and the second (the consequent) a definitive close (the 'answer'). The analysis of Piece 9 'Berceuse' will give more information on this topic.

Section A is in G major and section B in E minor.

1. Section A

Step 1: the basic model of section A

The basic model of section A is a pedal point in the upper voice and a stepwise, descending line in the lower voice (with some chromaticism).

Example 1a: antecedent section A

Step 2: upper voice in rhythmical form

Example 1b: antecedent section A

Step 3: filling in the rests by a line in parallel motion at the interval of a tenth

Example 1c: antecedent section A

Step 4: completing the antecedent with a consequent

Example 1d: section A

2. Section B

Step 1: the basic model of section B

The basic model of the antecedent of section B is a pedal point in the lower voice and a stepwise, descending line in the upper voice. Van Hemel applied the effective approach of voice exchange to make model section B with section A as a starting point.

Example 2a: antecedent section B

Step 2: elaborating the antecedent B1, upper voice

Example 2b: antecedent section B

3. Final version A-B-A

The final version of 'Comique' is predictable. Note the little spicy alteration at the end of B, before the repetition of section A. Note the dynamics, accents in section B and note the contrast between staccato and legato playing.

Comique ('Funny')

Allegro

staccato

p

5

1 2

9

staccato

mf

13

mf *f* *ff* *p*

1 2

18

staccato

22

About the author:

Reinier Maliepaard, psychologist, software engineer, organist and teacher at the ArtEZ Conservatorium Netherlands (music writing, music theory and music history). Maliepaard is the developer and maintainer of www.bestmusicteacher.com, that has three objectives education – information – inspiration

This article has been typeset with his free/open source music notation program MC Musiceditor 8.1.1, that can be downloaded at www.mcmusiceditor.com.
