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# *Le Clavier bien tempéré I*

*collection des préludes et fugues de*

*Jean Sébastien Bach*  
(1685–1750)

*arrangées pour le piano à quatre mains par*

*Henri Bertini jeune*  
(1798–1876)

*4<sup>e</sup> prélude et fugue  
en ut dièse mineur*

*Partition*

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## Henri Jérôme Bertini 1798–1876

Henri Jérôme Bertini was born in London on October 28, 1798, but his family returned to Paris six months later. He received his early musical education from his father and his brother, a pupil of Clementi. He was considered a child prodigy and at the age of 12 his father took him on a tour of England, Holland, Flanders, and Germany where he was enthusiastically received. After studies in composition in England and Scotland he was appointed professor of music in Brussels but returned to Paris in 1821. It is known that Bertini gave a concert with Franz Liszt in the Salons Pape on April 20, 1828. The program included a transcription by Bertini of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A major for eight hands (the other pianists were Sowinsky and Schunke.) He was also admired as a chamber music performer, giving concerts with his friends Fontaine (violin) and Franchomme (cello). He remained active in and around Paris until around 1848 when he retired from the musical scene. In 1859 he moved to Meylan (near Grenoble) where he died on September 30, 1876.

Bertini concertized widely but was not as celebrated a virtuoso as either Kalkbrenner or Henri Herz. One of his contemporaries (Marmontel) described his playing as having Clementi's evenness and clarity in rapid passages as well as the quality of sound, the manner of phrasing, and the ability to make the instrument sing characteristic of the school of Hummel and Moscheles. Thomas Tapper, in the preface of his edition of the *Études* Op.100 published by Ditson, says:

He was in his time a shining example of the most admirable qualities of an artist. Living in an age of garish virtuosity, and hailed as a brilliant executant himself, he maintained nevertheless the most rigorous standards of musicianship in his playing, in his compositions, and in the music which he appeared before the public to interpret. This is the more remarkable when one considers that his manhood was reached during the luxuriant period of French romanticism and that the extravagances of the literary outburst were reflected in the musical movements of the time. Virtuosity was subjected to sore temptations and many succumbed. Bertini stood for the sounder qualities of the artist and gradually acquired an extended and remunerative *prestige*. His life was singularly devoid of incident and official distinction, but the legacy of pedagogic works which he has left to us and his honorable activity give it every right to be called a success.

Bertini was celebrated as a teacher. Antoine Marmontel, who devoted the second chapter of his work on celebrated pianists to Bertini, writes

He was unsurpassed as a teacher, giving his lessons with scrupulous care and the keenest interest in his pupils' progress. After he had given up teaching, a number of his pupils continued with me, and I recognized the soundness of the principles drawn from his instruction.

It is above all in the special class of studies and caprices, that Bertini's immense popularity is founded. It is here that he occupied a unique position and opened the path over which the next generation of composers was to rush after him. In each of his numerous collections of studies, embracing every degree of difficulty, he has insistently given to every piece, easy or difficult, brief or extended, a character of salient melody. The technical problem to be overcome presents itself as a song; even where the study is devoted to the problem of velocity the general contour falls into a melodic curve, and this is the first and transcendent cause of the universal success of these pieces, which are, furthermore, natural in respect to rhythm and carefully thought out harmonically.

Robert Schumann, in a review of a piano trio in the *Gesammelte Schriften*, comments that Bertini writes easily flowing harmony but that the movements are too long. He continues: "With the best will in the world, we find it difficult to be angry with Bertini, yet he drives us to distraction with his perfumed Parisian phrases; all his music is as smooth as silk and satin."<sup>1</sup> German sentimentality has never appreciated French elegance.

Bertini is best remembered today for his piano method *Le Rudiment du pianiste*, and his 20 books of approximately 500 studies.

For more information on the life of Bertini, see *Henri Bertini pianiste virtuose, compositeur de musique* (Grenoble, 1999) by Pascal Beyls (<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/pascal.beyls/bertini/bertini.html>).

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<sup>1</sup> from Cobbett's Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music, Second Edition, Volume 1, page 124.

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# 4<sup>e</sup> en ut dièse mineur

Prélude

Andante. sostenuto.

J.S.Bach

arr. H.J.Bertini

Primo

Secondo

4

7

*p*

*esp.*

*p esp.*

*legato.*

*cres.*

*cres.*

10

Four-staff piano arrangement. Measures 10-12. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 10: Treble staff has a melodic line starting on F#4, moving up to A4, then down to G#4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Bass staff has a bass line starting on C3, moving up to E3, then down to D3, C3, B2, A2, G#2, F#2. Dynamics: *f* (forte) in both staves, then *dim.* (diminuendo) in both staves. Measure 11: Treble staff continues the melodic line. Bass staff continues the bass line. Measure 12: Treble staff has a melodic line starting on F#4, moving up to A4, then down to G#4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Bass staff has a bass line starting on C3, moving up to E3, then down to D3, C3, B2, A2, G#2, F#2. Dynamics: *p* (piano) in both staves.

13

Four-staff piano arrangement. Measures 13-15. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 13: Treble staff has a melodic line starting on F#4, moving up to A4, then down to G#4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Bass staff has a bass line starting on C3, moving up to E3, then down to D3, C3, B2, A2, G#2, F#2. Dynamics: *cres.* (crescendo) in both staves. Measure 14: Treble staff continues the melodic line. Bass staff continues the bass line. Measure 15: Treble staff has a melodic line starting on F#4, moving up to A4, then down to G#4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Bass staff has a bass line starting on C3, moving up to E3, then down to D3, C3, B2, A2, G#2, F#2. Dynamics: *f* (forte) in both staves.

16

Four-staff piano arrangement. Measures 16-18. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 16: Treble staff has a melodic line starting on F#4, moving up to A4, then down to G#4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Bass staff has a bass line starting on C3, moving up to E3, then down to D3, C3, B2, A2, G#2, F#2. Dynamics: *p* (piano) in both staves. Measure 17: Treble staff continues the melodic line. Bass staff continues the bass line. Measure 18: Treble staff has a melodic line starting on F#4, moving up to A4, then down to G#4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Bass staff has a bass line starting on C3, moving up to E3, then down to D3, C3, B2, A2, G#2, F#2. Dynamics: *p* (piano) in both staves.

19

22

25

29

32

36

Fugue à 5 voix  
Moderato maestoso.

Ben marcato. *p* *cres.*

This system contains measures 1 through 7 of the fugue. The top two staves (treble clef) are mostly rests, with a single eighth note in the right hand at the end of measure 7. The middle staff (bass clef) begins with a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 5. The bottom staff (bass clef) starts with a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 5. The tempo/mood is 'Moderato maestoso'.

8 *cres.* *f* *f*

This system contains measures 8 through 13. The top two staves continue with rests and a few notes. The middle staff (bass clef) has a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 10. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 10. The tempo/mood is 'Moderato maestoso'.

14 *dim.*

This system contains measures 14 through 19. The top two staves continue with rests and a few notes. The middle staff (bass clef) has a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 16. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 16. The tempo/mood is 'Moderato maestoso'.



21

21

*p*

*f*

*p*

*f*

27

27

*ff*

*ff*

34

34

*p*

*p*

39

*poco - - - a - - - poco - -*

44

*[cres.]*

*cres.*

49

54

Measures 54-58 of a musical score in A major (three sharps). The score is for four staves. Measures 54-55 show a melodic line in the upper right staff with a slur, and a bass line in the lower left staff with a slur. Measures 56-58 show a melodic line in the upper right staff with a slur, and a bass line in the lower left staff with a slur. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

59

Measures 59-63 of a musical score in A major (three sharps). The score is for four staves. Measures 59-60 show a melodic line in the upper right staff with a slur, and a bass line in the lower left staff with a slur. Measures 61-63 show a melodic line in the upper right staff with a slur, and a bass line in the lower left staff with a slur. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs. A dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present in measure 60.

64

Measures 64-68 of a musical score in A major (three sharps). The score is for four staves. Measures 64-65 show a melodic line in the upper right staff with a slur, and a bass line in the lower left staff with a slur. Measures 66-68 show a melodic line in the upper right staff with a slur, and a bass line in the lower left staff with a slur. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs. A dynamic marking *p* (piano) is present in measure 66.

69

ff

74

ff

79

p

84

89

94

99

104

110