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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)

*20<sup>e</sup> prélude et fugue  
en la mineur*

*Primo*

## 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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20<sup>e</sup> en la mineurPrélude  
Allegro.J.S.Bach  
arr. H.J.Bertini

4

7

10

12

15

*p esp.*

18

*p*

21

*cres.*

24

*f*

26

*rall.*

Fugue à 4 voix  
Andante maestoso.

The image displays a musical score for a four-voice fugue, measures 7 through 13. The score is written for a grand staff with two systems of staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Andante maestoso'. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). Measure numbers 7, 10, and 13 are indicated in boxes at the beginning of their respective systems. The notation includes triplets, slurs, and ties, indicating complex rhythmic patterns and phrasing. The first system (measures 7-9) features a piano introduction with a triplet in the right hand. The second system (measures 10-12) shows a forte section with intricate sixteenth-note passages. The third system (measures 13) returns to a piano texture with more complex rhythmic figures.

16

Measures 16-18 of a piano arrangement. Measure 16 features a treble clef with a sharp key signature and a bass clef with a natural key signature. The treble staff has a *cres.* marking and a trill (*tr.*) in measure 18. The bass staff has a *p* marking in measure 18. The music is in 2/4 time and includes various melodic and harmonic lines.

19

Measures 19-21 of a piano arrangement. Measure 19 features a treble clef with a sharp key signature and a bass clef with a natural key signature. The treble staff has a trill (*tr.*) in measure 21. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 19. The music is in 2/4 time and includes various melodic and harmonic lines.

22

Measures 22-24 of a piano arrangement. Measure 22 features a treble clef with a sharp key signature and a bass clef with a natural key signature. The music is in 2/4 time and includes various melodic and harmonic lines.

25

Measures 25-27 of a piano arrangement. Measure 25 features a treble clef with a sharp key signature and a bass clef with a natural key signature. The treble staff has a trill (*tr.*) in measure 27. The music is in 2/4 time and includes various melodic and harmonic lines.

28

31

34

*ten.*

*f*

3 1 3

3 1 3

2

37

1 1 1

3

4 1

2 2

1

40

*p*



43

Measures 43-45 of a piano arrangement. Measure 43 features a treble clef with a melody starting on G4, marked with a forte *f* dynamic. The left hand has a whole rest. Measure 44 continues the melody in the treble, with a triplet of eighth notes on A4-B4-C5 and a whole rest in the left hand. Measure 45 shows the melody continuing with a first finger fingering (1) on D5, while the left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale (5-2-1-2) on the bass staff.

46

Measures 46-48. Measure 46: Treble clef melody continues with eighth-note patterns; left hand has a whole rest. Measure 47: Treble clef melody continues; left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale (4-5-4-3-4-5) on the bass staff. Measure 48: Treble clef melody continues with a sharp sign on the final note; left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale (5-4-3-2-1) on the bass staff.

49

Measures 49-51. Measure 49: Treble clef melody continues, marked with a fortissimo *ff* dynamic; left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale. Measure 50: Treble clef melody continues with a fourth finger fingering (4) on E5; left hand has a whole rest. Measure 51: Treble clef melody ends with a trill (*tr*) on F5; left hand has a whole rest.

52

Measures 52-54. Measure 52: Treble clef melody continues with a trill (*tr*) on G5; left hand has a whole rest. Measure 53: Treble clef melody continues with a sharp sign on the final note; left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale. Measure 54: Treble clef melody continues with a sharp sign on the final note; left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale.

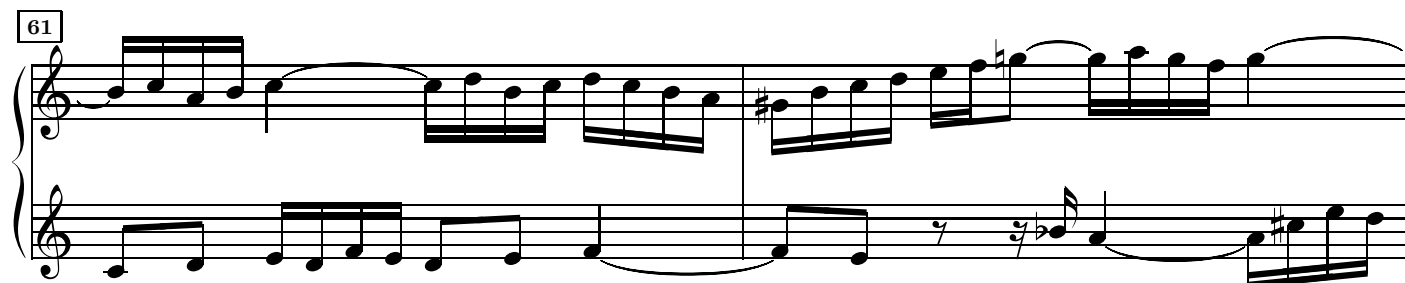
55

Measures 55-57. Measure 55: Treble clef melody continues with a trill (*tr*) on A5; left hand has a whole rest. Measure 56: Treble clef melody continues with a trill (*tr*) on B5; left hand has a whole rest. Measure 57: Treble clef melody continues with a sharp sign on the final note; left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale.

58



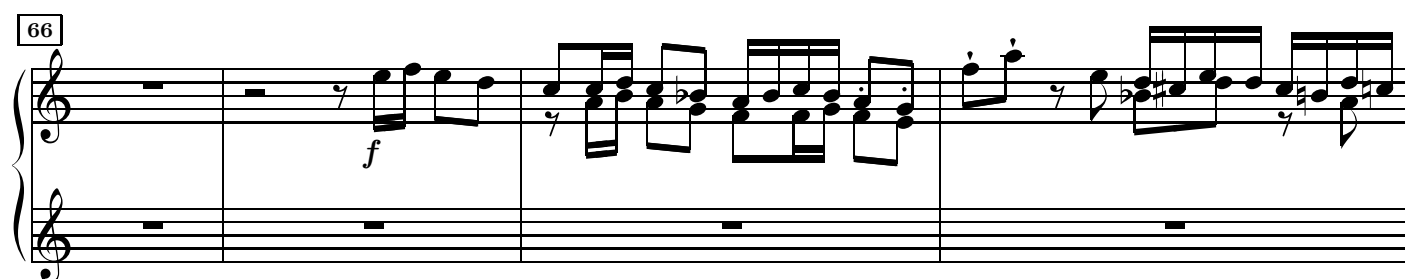
61



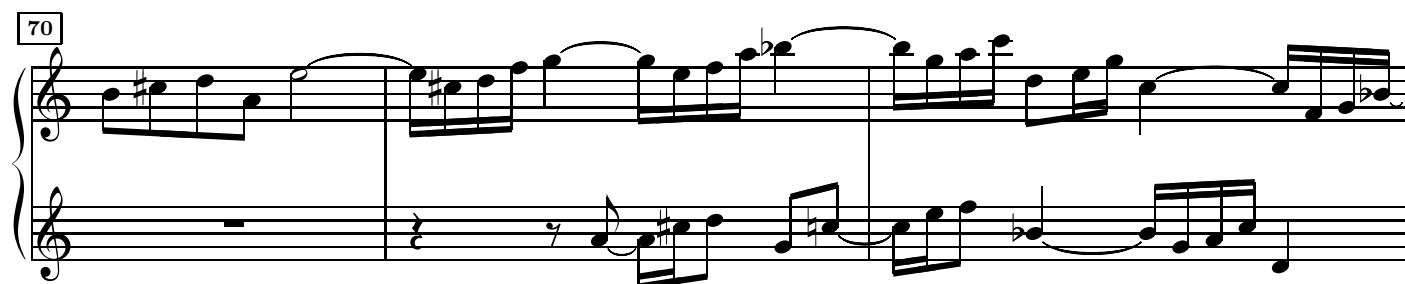
63



66



70



73 *tr*

76

79 *ff*

82 *fz* *f* *dim.*

85 *Adagio.* *ten.* *p* *rall.*