
Le Clavier bien tempéré II

collection des préludes et fugues de

Jean Sébastien Bach
(1685–1750)

arrangées pour le piano à quatre mains par

Henri Bertini jeune
(1798–1876)

45.^e prélude et fugue
en si bémol majeur

Partition

45.^e en si bémol majeurPrélude
Allegretto.J.S.Bach
arr. H.J.Bertini

First system of the musical score, measures 1-3. The score is written for piano in B-flat major (three flats) and 12/16 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. The bottom two staves are empty.

Second system of the musical score, measures 4-6. The right hand continues the melodic development with slurs and fingerings 2, 1. The left hand has a more active role with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom two staves remain empty.

Third system of the musical score, measures 7-9. Measure 7 includes a trill (tr) in the right hand. The right hand has slurs and fingerings 2, 1. The left hand has a melodic line with slurs and fingerings 2, 1, 3, 2, 1. The bottom two staves are empty.

10

13

16

19

Measures 19-21 of the 45th prelude and fugue in B-flat major. The score is written for a grand staff with two treble and two bass staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major). Measure 19 features a complex sixteenth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple accompaniment in the left. Measure 20 continues the right-hand pattern with a melodic line in the left. Measure 21 shows a change in the right-hand pattern and a more active left hand.

22

Measures 22-24 of the 45th prelude and fugue in B-flat major. Measure 22 continues the right-hand pattern with a melodic line in the left. Measure 23 shows a change in the right-hand pattern and a more active left hand. Measure 24 features a complex sixteenth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple accompaniment in the left.

25

Measures 25-27 of the 45th prelude and fugue in B-flat major. Measure 25 features a complex sixteenth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple accompaniment in the left. Measure 26 continues the right-hand pattern with a melodic line in the left. Measure 27 shows a change in the right-hand pattern and a more active left hand.

28

31

34

37

p

f

40

43

f

f

46

49

52

55

58

61

53

64

p

p

67

cres.

cres.

70

f

73

ff *dim.* *rall.*

76 *in tempo.*

p ten *cres.*

79

f

82

85

Fugue à 3 voix
Allegretto.

5

p cres.

cres.

9

fz

13

f *fz*

f

17

p

21

fz

25

tr

33

37

J.S.Bach (1685–1750) : *Le Clavier bien tempéré*, 45.^e prélude et fugue en si bémol majeur

41

Measures 41-44 of a piano piece. The score is written for four staves (two grand staves). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The top grand staff (treble and alto clefs) features a continuous eighth-note melody in the treble clef, with a slur over measures 41-43 and a fermata in measure 44. The bottom grand staff (bass and tenor clefs) has a more complex accompaniment. In the bass clef, there are eighth-note patterns with accents in measures 41-43, followed by a descending line in measure 44. The tenor clef part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment throughout.

45

Measures 45-48 of the piano piece. The key signature remains two flats. The top grand staff continues the eighth-note melody in the treble clef, with a slur over measures 45-46 and a fermata in measure 48. A piano dynamic marking (*p*) appears in measure 47. The bottom grand staff continues its accompaniment. The bass clef part features a descending eighth-note line in measure 45, followed by a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The tenor clef part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

49

Measures 49-52 of the piano piece. The key signature remains two flats. The top grand staff features a melody in the treble clef with a slur over measures 49-50 and a fermata in measure 52. The bottom grand staff continues the accompaniment. The bass clef part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The tenor clef part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

53

p *cres.* *f*

57

f

62

f

66

ff fz

con energia.

ff

ben marcato il Basso.

71

75

fz p

p

80

84

89

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."¹ 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>).

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