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Jukka Tiensuu

Arsenic and Old Lace

for micro-tonally tuned Harpsichord and String Quartet

1990

TEOSTO

SUOMALAISEN MUSIIKIN TIEDOTUSKESKUS
FINNISH MUSIC INFORMATION CENTRE

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Performance notes:

All ornaments semitonal.

strings

↖ a quick glissando downwards.

♯ ♭ a quarter-tone sharp and flat respectively. However, the strings should adapt to the tuning of the harpsichord as much as possible. Special care should be taken when playing in unison with the harpsichord (e.g. bars 20-21 and 47).

~ very slow fluctuations (ca. a quarter-tone above and below the main note).

continuous glissando at even speed and legato (i.e. bow change only where necessary).

\+ pizzicato (either normal or with left hand)

In bars 220-226 each player will do an individual calando, i.e. the 1/16-notes must not be synchronised. Consequently, the players will arrive to bar 225 (and "fade out") at different times.

The strings should adapt their dynamics to that of the harpsichord. Amplification of the harpsichord is recommended.

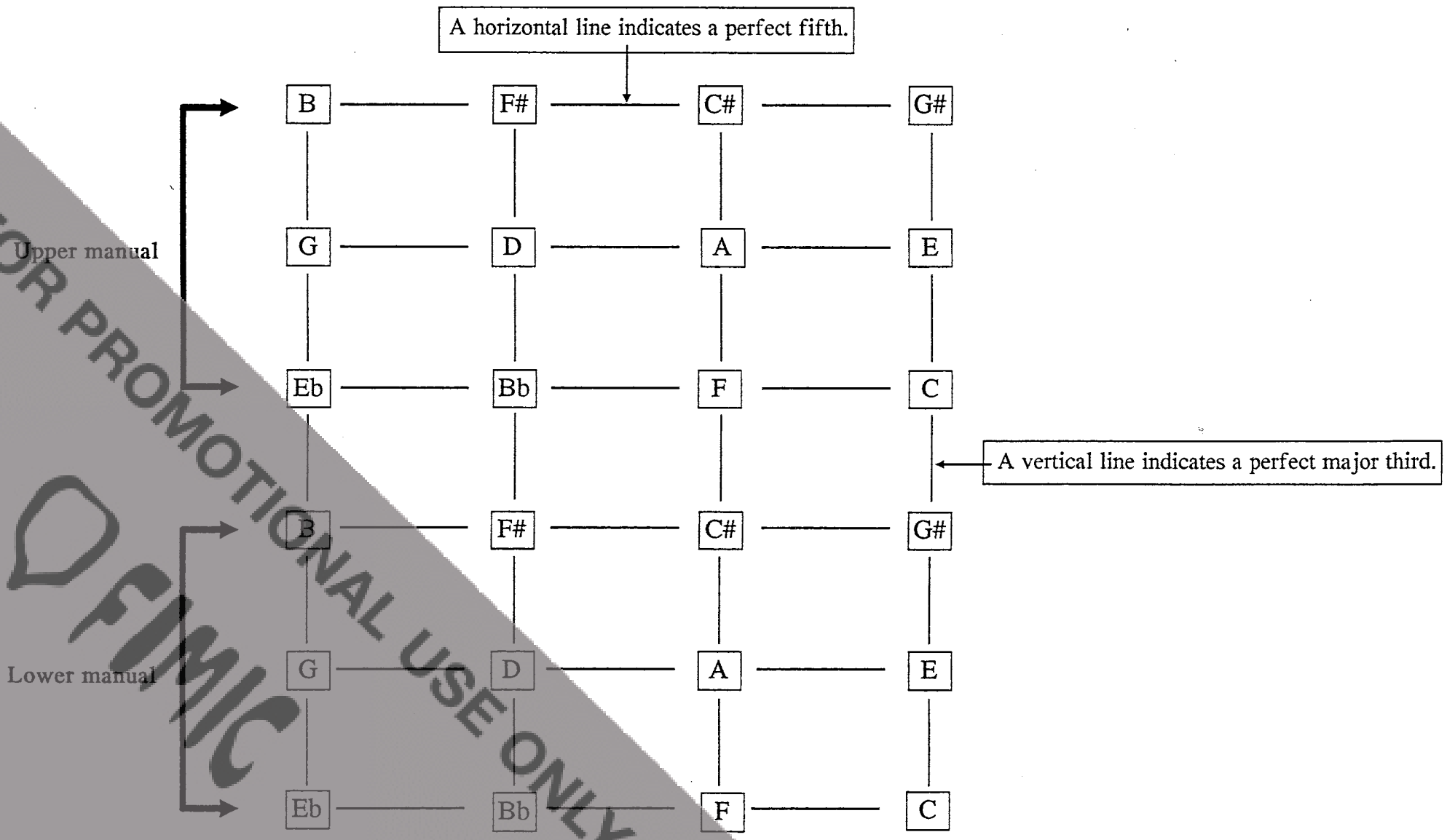
harpsichord

◇ diamond-shaped note-heads indicate keys to be played on the upper keyboard.

Although not indicated, a "laissez vibrer" is recommended throughout the piece, especially in slow sections.

The harpsichordist can start his cadenza (a free improvisation) on B♭ as soon as the players have reached the final unison. The cadenza should finish with thirds D-F/D-F♯ (with possible microtonal variations) and preferably overlap (ad lib.) with the entrance of the violins in bars 227-228.

Tuning of the harpsichord is based on perfect intervals. Starting with the lower manual and tuning the A to the A used by the string quartet, one should then proceed to tune the other strings as indicated below. The 4' stop on the lower manual is tuned to octave with the 8' (as usual). All octaves within a stop are perfect. As a result both manuals have identical tuning but the upper manual (8') sounds 41 cents (ca. 1/5-tone) lower than the lower manual.



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♪= 84 pizz. mp

I:8' II:8'

15 arco 20 25 30 35 ♪= 72 40 ♪= 72

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45

50

55

poco rit.

60

♩ = 60/54

65

70

pizz

♩ = 72

75

arco

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80

85

90

95

100

105

110

pizz

arco

(arco?)

("forte")

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115

120

125

130

135

140

sul pont.

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CMC

145

150

155

160

165

170

(arco?)

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175

(arco?)

cresc.

180

185

190

s.pont.

PP

+K

195

200

ord.

en dehors

Tutti

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CANVAS

205

210

215

-K

-4

pochiss. rall.

220

molto calando

225

♪= 10

♩ = 42 **con calore**

230

235

P con calore

[Cadenza]

(8', 8')

(improvisando)

240

245

+4' +K .

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250

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

255

260

265

"ff"

"ff"

"ff"

"ff"

Tutti

270

8va

8va

(chromatic clusters)

275

sempre trillo

sempre trillo

280

tr

tr

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285

poco a poco dim.

poco a poco dim.

290

(pp)

(pp)

pp

pp

tr molto rall.

1. volta 8va bassa

tr molto

295

(loco e senza trillo)

(loco e senza trillo)

300

rall.

305

310

315

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320

325

330

335

-8' +4'

340

345

350

355

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