PEDAGOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE SOLO PIANO WORKS OF THORKELL SIGURBJÖRNSSON

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FEATURES OF BARTÓK’S PIANO MUSIC

- Ear training
- Mirroring and altered hand positions
- Delightful miniatures
- Sightreading
- Modal
- Unexpected/complex rhythmic patterns
- Folk songs
- Counterpoint
- Dissonance
- Encourages hands separate practice
- Wide range of articulative markings
THORKELL SIGURBJÖRNSSON
(1938-2013)
APASPIIL (1966)

- Modal
- Dissonances
- Folksong qualities
- Counterpoint
- Variety of articulation
- Uneven phrase lengths
- Mixed meter
- Solfege/Ear training
Sjö lög úr Apaspil/
Seven Songs from Apaspil
(Composed in 1966)

P króli Sigurbjörnsson

Kátur api
(A happy monkey)
Dýratemjarinn
(The animal trainer)
Í skólanum
(In the school)

Poco meno mosso
(The animal trainer comes)
SINDUR (2000)

• Extended techniques
  • Sostenuto pedal
  • Double-pedaling
• Tone color
• Imitation/Canonic
• Motivic
• No real tonal center
LAGSTÚFUR FYRIR VIGDÍSI (1981)

- Icelandic folk song
  - Rímur
  - Tvísöngur
- Mixed meters
- Lydian mode
- Canon
- Extensive use of triplet rhythms
Lagstúfur fyrir Vigðísi
(Composed in 1981)
Perkell Sigurðjónsson

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OTHER PIANO WORKS

• Der wohltemperierte Pianist (1971)
  • Mixed meters
  • Accentuations
  • Uneven rhythmic structures
  • Third movement: unusual tone colors

• Concert Tours (1972)
  • Mixed meters
  • Accentuations
  • Uneven rhythmic structures
  • Fourth movement: canonic Icelandic folk tune
  • Fifth movement: retrograde of first movement
OTHER PIANO WORKS

• **SO (1973)**
  - Virtuosic tour de force
  - Reimagines much of Bartók’s tonal language
  - Mixed meter
  - Tone clusters

• **Hans Variations (1979)**
  - Thorkell’s pianistic masterpiece
  - Variations on sections of the thematic material (Icelandic folksong)
  - Articulative variety
  - Modal
  - Mixed meter
  - Some variations use hand mirroring of a previous variation
  - Unique pianistic colors
OTHER PIANO WORKS

• Chaconnette (1985)
  • Use of chaconne bass
  • Motivic
  • Much of the piece is in 5/4 or 4/4

• MA KNOTT (1993)
  • Minimalistic
  • Alternating/repetitive fingering

• Chesa (2008)
  • Mixed meter
  • Clever pedal markings (extended piano techniques)
  • Folk song elements
  • Motivic
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QUESTIONS?