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To Anacreon in the US

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Author

Green, Anthony R.

Publication Date

2020

TO ANACREON IN THE US (2019)

a prelude for solo piano, OR a postlude to
Feux d'artifice by Claude Debussy

duration: 5.25 minutes

music by: Anthony R. Green



Preface

The conclusion of *Feux d'artifice* – the last piano prelude by Claude Debussy – ends with a low rumbling and a quotation of *Le Marseillaise*. Before this section, Debussy demands powerful, ascending chords (5-note chords in the left hand). *To Anacreon in the US* takes the national anthem (hymn) of the USA (which is originally a formal British drinking song entitled *To Anacreon in Heaven*), and applies a similar Debussy-esque process, along with permutations, elongations, zen counterpoint, ostinati, displacement, and pianistic gestures that all stem from the melody to *The Star-Spangled Banner*. The last gesture is a bold, chordal statement – the chord that would have been composed if Debussy continued his ascending gesture on that brilliant last page. This work was completed 3 January 2019.

A Note on Notation

Each measure is 4 seconds (according to the tempo marking/time signature combination). The contents of a measure, however, are not always *mathematically correct*. In these instances, the notes should be placed, and they should vibrate until they die. As indicated in the beginning of the score, the damper and the soft pedals must be depressed throughout the entire performance. HOWEVER, if playing this piece in intimate spaces, half damper and lightly clearing the damper pedal from time to time is recommended. The left hand rumble is heard throughout, and must always remain *pianissimo*. In this way, distance can be created with the above gestures, especially when carefully considering the dynamics. Always keep in mind the tempo marking – quarter (crotchet) equals 60 beats per minute. Therefore, do not rush any of the silences, and do not take them too long either. Additionally, at measure 49, do not rush this ostinato, and do not rush the gesture at measure 64, both of which are *measured* (as opposed to the flurry gestures). As always, HAVE BIG FUN!!!

To Anacreon in the US

- a prelude for solo piano, OR a postlude to Feux d'artifice, by Claude Debussy -

by A. R. Green

Stoic; ♩ = 60

Piano

pp (repeat as fast as possible)
8va bassa -----
una e tre corde Led. sempre

sffz

5

p *mf* *f*
mp *p*
8va -----
(♩ ♭ ♩ ♩)

10

f *p* *mp* *ff* *mp*
mf *f*
8va -----
(♩ ♭ ♩ ♩)

15

8^{va}

mf

p

f

(*B_b G F E_b*)

20

15^{ma}

sfz

sfz

mp

mp

f

(*B_b G F E_b*)

24

p

sfz

sfz

p

pp

(*B_b G F E_b*)

(repeat as fast as possible)

8^{va} bassa

29

f *sfz* *mp* *mp* *ff*

8va

3

3

33

mp *sfz* *mp* *ff* *mf*

8va

8va

3

3

38

sfz *mp* *p* *ff*

8va

43

p *fff*

5 5 5 5

(2 measures)

(repeat as fast as possible)

(both hands cresc.)

47

mp

p

f

pp (repeat as fast as possible)

8^{va} bassa -----

52

v.

54

v.

56

pp

15^{ma}

v.

sfz

60

8va-7

mf

p

f

6

6

sfz

64

p

5

6

3

ff

7

66

8va---7

mp

3

sfz

p

ff

mp

70

loco

8-12"

mp

mf

fff

sfz

grab quickly with RH

15^{ma}7

8-12"

(repeat AFAP)

sfz

sfz

n.

Red. — *

* Lift pedal on "beat three", let notes of chord dim. al niente (5 - 20")