

c o n c e r t m u s i c

Canons
for Brass Quintet

p e t e r g i l b e r t

Canons for Brass Quintet

- I. Bells (1:30)
- II. Imitations (2:00)
- III. Canons (2:30)

Notes to the Performers:

- In the first movement, the  accent indicates a breath accent that should have a lunging quality to it—a quick, hard push of air.
- The dynamic **n** is for *niente* or nothing. It is always used at the end of decrescendo (fading to nothing) or the beginning of crescendo (coming in from nothing).

Program Note:

Musical canons are relatively straight-forward layerings of some material with copies of itself. They have fascinated composers forever—probably because they deal help amass richness while maintaining a limited and focused set of recognizable elements.

In this set of three miniatures, the first takes as its inspiration the simplest of all canons: the echo. While some of the bells to which title alludes are fairly obvious, the juxtaposed tritones, which I also think of as bell-like, belong to the operatic world of Mussorgsky. The “canons” in the second movement are actually more akin to renaissance points of imitation, creating a long, slow arch and closing with a quiet reminiscence of the first movement.

The Final movement uses a variety of relatively strict canons. The leading voice leaves gaps to be filled in by the canonic response, creating a rhythmic groove. Other voices play the canons inverted (turned upside down), augmented (slowed down) or transposed (moved to a different starting pitch) or all of the above.

Canons

[1] Bells

Peter Gilbert
(1999)

Transposed Score

Rhythmic ($\bullet = 100$)

6

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

molto legato

molto legato

molto legato

10

12

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

This image shows a musical score for five instruments over three staves. The top staff (Tp 1) has a treble clef and common time, starting with eighth-note pairs. The second staff (Tp 2) also has a treble clef and common time, with eighth-note pairs. The third staff (Hn) has a treble clef and common time, with eighth-note pairs. The fourth staff (Tbn) has a bass clef and common time, with eighth-note pairs. The bottom staff (Tba) has a bass clef and common time, with eighth-note pairs. Measure 10 consists of two measures of eighth-note pairs. Measure 11 starts with a measure of eighth-note pairs followed by a measure of rests. Measure 12 begins with a measure of eighth-note pairs, followed by a measure where the first instrument plays eighth-note pairs at dynamic *p*, while the others play eighth-note pairs at dynamic *mf*. The final measure of the excerpt shows eighth-note pairs for all instruments.

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

15

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

20

molto legato

22

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

24

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

28

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

31

34

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

35

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

39

as long as necessary

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

ff *n*
ff *n*
ff *n*
ff *n*
ff *n*

[2] Imitations

44 Adagio Cantabile (♩ = c. 48) cup mute

Trumpet 1 in C
Trumpet 2 in C
Horn in F
Trombone
Tuba

n-p
p
p
p
muted

49 51

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

pp
p
=n
n mp
mp 3

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

Musical score for orchestra, page 59, measures 54-55. The score includes parts for Tp 1, Tp 2, Hn, Tbn, and Tba. Measure 54 starts with Tp 1 playing eighth-note pairs at *mp*. Tp 2 follows with eighth-note pairs at *n* (*p*). Hn plays eighth-note pairs at *muted -3-*. Tbn plays eighth-note pairs at *p* (*mp*). Tba plays eighth-note pairs at *n*. Measure 55 begins with Tp 1 playing eighth-note pairs at *open*. Tp 2 follows with eighth-note pairs at *mp*. Hn plays eighth-note pairs at *mp*. Tbn plays eighth-note pairs at *mf*. Tba plays eighth-note pairs at *mf* (*f*).

59

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

cup mute

ff

mf

p

mp

mf

p

65

63

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

(open)

p cup mute

muted 3 pp

with Tuba

pp with Tpt 2

[3] Canons

Fast and Crisp (♩ = 144)

69

Trumpet 1 in C

Trumpet 2 in C

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

74

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

84

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

85

Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

piu cresc.

92

90

Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

f
f
f
f

94

Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

98

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

102

mf — *mp*

mf — *mp*

mf — *mp*

mp

mp

103

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

mf

108

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

112

p

p

p

p

p

mf

mp

p

p

p

mf

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

113

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

121

127

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

128

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

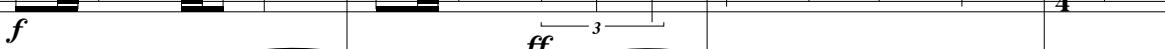
134

Tp 1 
f

Tp 2 
f

Hn 
f

Tbn 
ff

Tba 
f

138

Musical score for brass quintet (Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Horn, Bassoon, Tuba) in common time. The score consists of four staves. Measures 1-4 are shown, separated by vertical bar lines. Dynamics and performance instructions are included.

Tp 1: Treble clef, dynamic *ff* (measures 1-2), dynamic *mf* (measures 3-4).

Tp 2: Treble clef, dynamic *ff* (measures 1-2), dynamic *mf* (measures 3-4), dynamic *f* (measure 4).

Hn: Treble clef, dynamic *mf* (measures 1-4).

Tbn: Bass clef, dynamic *f* (measures 1-4).

Tba: Bass clef, dynamic *f* (measures 1-4).

143

143

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

f

mp

f

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

147

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

151

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

155

Tp 1
Tp 2
Hn
Tbn
Tba

Canons for Brass Quintet - Score

159

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba

163

Tp 1

Tp 2

Hn

Tbn

Tba