

Benjamin Britten

Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Op.34

Variation J

Be careful not to buzz the bass wire strings in the fourth measure and try to keep the phrases as clean as possible. Note that the lowest left-hand note in the first six bars has been eliminated. Make your entrance with assurance, clearly defining the eighth-note duple, and keep the phrase moving as you crescendo in the triplets. Always use the momentum inherent in the phrase. This spot is easy to drag, particularly when playing alone (as in an audition). Listening to the horn part will help maintain momentum. Bring out the accented notes carefully and play each phrase quickly, cleanly, and rhythmically.

Fugue II

Keep the pulse of the left-hand glissandi strong and be sure to end before the third beat. Make a substantial crescendo, so the harp rings, and land securely on the third beat. It is crucial to stay focused on the beat of the orchestra. Never ignore the beat to accommodate your own part. It is better to drop some notes than lose the beat.

General Observations

Young musicians often feel that in order to be interesting or musical they can ignore indications given by the composer. The importance of these rhythmic and dynamic markings cannot be over-emphasized. The musician must learn to add a personal style within these guidelines and must also match the style of the ensemble as a whole. This level of artistry will not be achieved simply by learning the part. In addition to playing cleanly, musically, and rhythmically, the player must be listening to the orchestra, even when playing! This ability will develop with experience and will build confidence.

***Please note: the cadenza from this work is found in Chapter 2, pp.8-9.

(fugue 2)

Con Slancio

The first system of musical notation for Fugue 2. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) and accents. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, featuring a similar eighth-note pattern. A small graphic of a piano keyboard is shown in the lower left of the first measure.

The second system of musical notation for Fugue 2. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) and accents. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, featuring a similar eighth-note pattern. A dashed line labeled "8va" is above the upper staff. The label "RH" is placed between the staves in the first measure.

The third system of musical notation for Fugue 2. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) and accents. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, featuring a similar eighth-note pattern. A dashed line labeled "8va" is above the upper staff. The label "LH" is placed between the staves in the first and second measures.

The fourth system of musical notation for Fugue 2. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) and accents. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, featuring a similar eighth-note pattern. A dashed line labeled "8va" is above the upper staff. The label "RH" is placed between the staves in the first and second measures. The label "ff" is placed below the lower staff in the first measure. The label "LH" is placed between the staves in the third and fourth measures. The label "RH" is placed below the lower staff in the third and fourth measures.