

INTRODUCTION

impressions...en relief

impressions...en relief for piano solo is about the collision of four diverse materials: trill, cluster, rapid figure and (vertical) interval. The collisions happen in two fundamentally different ways: (1) in a (more or less) contrasting way, and (2) when one material gets transformed into another. The piece can be easily divided into 9 sections. The basic formal idea is that in the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th sections, the collisions happen in a more or less contrasting way; in the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th sections, one material gets transformed into another. Below a condensed formal overview:

- 1st section (A): contrast; cluster-rapid figure-interval-trill
- 2nd section (B): transformation; interval-trill
- 3rd section (A): contrast; rapid figure-cluster-interval
- 4th section (B): transformation; trill-rapid figure
- 5th section (A): contrast; interval-cluster-trill
- 6th section (B): transformation; rapid figure-cluster
- 7th section (A): contrast; cluster-trill-rapid figure
- 8th section (B): transformation; interval-cluster
- 9th section (C): free-tonal chorale

The intensity of the contrast in the A-sections gradually decreases throughout the piece. The collisions in the first A-section take place in a most contrasting way, whereas the collisions in the last A-section occur in the least contrasting way. By decreasing the level of contrast in the course of the A-sections, the characters of the A and B-sections assimilate more and more.

The first eight sections adhere rather strictly to the idea of transformation and contrast of the four materials, while the ninth section introduces new material. After all these „impressions“ which were all created according to a logical plan, the formal rigidity is abandoned and a free-tonal chorale is presented – without obvious reason. Short reminiscences recall the four basic materials, though the idea of contrast and transformation no longer plays a dominant role.

In 2008, *impressions...en relief* won the 3rd prize at the International Music+Culture Composers Competition, USA.