

Epigrams

for Bb clarinet and piano

by

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Epigrams

for Bb clarinet and piano

Program Notes

Epigrams was composed by Joe L. Alexander for fellow East Central University faculty members, Mark Hollingsworth, clarinet, and Dennis Boe, piano. The three of us performed together in the Nanola Performing Arts Ensemble and presented new music recitals throughout Oklahoma. *Epigrams* was commissioned for the 1993-94 season and was premiered in Ada, Oklahoma on June 22, 1993.

Performer Notes

Accidentals only apply to the line or space on which they are written. They remain in effect for the measure unless cancelled out by another one. Each movement is a study in a different rhythmic meter or idea. In the first movement, beats one and three need to be played in time. There should be tempo fluctuations between the beats two and four and the subdivisions. An asymmetrical meter is the basis for the second movement and the beats should be slightly accented. The third movement is non-metrical. The note values are suggestions for the relative lengths of the pitches. There should be no hint of a beat present. How long the sostenuto pedal is depressed is based on how well the piano strings ring. The pedal should be released at the end of the ringing sound. (A well tuned piano will ring longer and louder than one that is out of tune.) The final movement should have a very steady pulse maintained throughout.

Timings

I	2:05
II	1:05
III	1:50
IV	2:10

Duration: c. 7:10

Epigrams

Bb Clarinet and Piano

for Mark Hollingsworth and Dennis Boe

Joe L. Alexander

I

Rubato

$\bullet = 52$

Bb Clarinet

Piano

Legato

mp

p

rit.

A Tempo

mf

mp

A Tempo

rit.

rit.

A Tempo

rit.

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10 *A Tempo* *rit.*

f *mf*

A Tempo *rit.*

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10, 11, and 12. The top staff (treble clef) features a melodic line starting at measure 10 with a forte (*f*) dynamic, marked *A Tempo*. It includes a slur over measures 10-11 and a *rit.* marking above measure 12. The dynamic shifts to mezzo-forte (*mf*) at the start of measure 12. The bottom staff (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords in measures 10-11 and a moving bass line in measure 12. The piano part is marked *f* and *A Tempo*, with a *rit.* marking above measure 12.

13 *A Tempo*

rit. *mf*

rit. *mf* *A Tempo*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13, 14, and 15. The top staff (treble clef) has a melodic line starting at measure 13 with a *rit.* marking above it, followed by a *mf* dynamic. A slur covers measures 13-14, and another slur covers measures 14-15. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a moving bass line in measure 13, a *rit.* marking above measure 14, and a *mf* dynamic. The piano part is marked *A Tempo* in measure 15.

16 *mp* *rit.*

mp *rit.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16, 17, and 18. The top staff (treble clef) features a melodic line starting at measure 16 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, marked *rit.* above measure 17. A slur covers measures 16-17, and another slur covers measures 17-18. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a moving bass line in measure 16, a *mp* dynamic, and a *rit.* marking above measure 17. The piano part concludes with a final chord in measure 18.

Bb Clarinet

II

Joe L. Alexander

Musical score for Bb Clarinet and Piano, measures 1-5. The Bb Clarinet part starts with a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 240$ and a dynamic of *f*. The Piano part starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature changes from 5/8 to 2/4.

Musical score for Bb Clarinet and Piano, measures 6-10. The Bb Clarinet part continues with various rhythmic patterns. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Musical score for Bb Clarinet and Piano, measures 11-15. The Bb Clarinet part features dynamics of *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. The Piano part features dynamics of *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. The key signature changes to two flats (Bb, Eb) and the time signature changes to 3/4.

Meno mosso

16

p

Meno mosso

pp

21

p

a tempo

26

f

a tempo

f

mf

31

31

p

36

36

mf

mf

Red.

Red.

40

40

mf cresc. al fine

f

ff

mf cresc. al fine

f

ff

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

III

Joe L. Alexander

Play into Piano

Piano is tacet except for pedaling

♩ = 60

Bb Clarinet

1
f *p* *f*
Ped.

Clar.

7
ff *mf*
* Ped.

Clar.

13
fff *sfz* *fff* *f*
* Ped.

Clar.

18
mf *pp*
rit.

Clar.

25
ppp
Ped.

IV

Bb Clarinet

Joe L. Alexander

• = 120

f

mf

f

p

The musical score is written for Bb Clarinet and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) features a Bb Clarinet line with a tempo marking of quarter note = 120. The piano accompaniment is in 12/8 time and includes a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the Bb Clarinet line with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) shows the Bb Clarinet line with a piano (*p*) dynamic in the piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score system 1, measures 13-16. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 13 is marked with a fermata. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a rhythmic accompaniment in the grand staff. Dynamics include *f* in measure 16.

Musical score system 2, measures 17-20. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff below. Measure 17 is marked with a fermata. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a rhythmic accompaniment in the grand staff.

Musical score system 3, measures 21-24. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff below. Measure 21 is marked with a fermata. Dynamics include *f* and *pp*. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a rhythmic accompaniment in the grand staff.

Musical score system 4, measures 25-28. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff below. Measure 25 is marked with a fermata. Dynamics include *f*, *fff*, and *f*. The system concludes with a double bar line and the instruction *// A Tempo*. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a rhythmic accompaniment in the grand staff.

29

f

33

f

37

p *ff*
pp *ff*

41

simile

45 *simile*

pp *mf* *f*

49

f *mf*

53

f *mp*

56

mp *mf* *f* *fff*

mf *f* *fff*

The composer welcomes any questions concerning *Epigrams* and would greatly appreciate hearing about performances. Inquires and programs should be sent to:

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Epigrams

Bb Clarinet

Bb Clarinet and Piano

Joe L. Alexander

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I

1 *mp* *rit.*

2

6 *A Tempo*

10 *rit.* *mf*

14 *mf* *mp*

17 *rit.* *pp*

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II

Bb Clarinet

Joe L. Alexander

1 *f*

7 *mf*

12 *f* *mf*

17 *Meno mosso* *p* *p*

24 *a tempo* *f*

30 *f*

35 *mf*

40 *mf* *f* *ff*

Bb Clarinet

III

Joe L. Alexander

Play into Piano

Piano is tacet except for pedaling

1 = 60

f *p* *f*

ff *mf*

fff *sfz* *fff* *f*

mf *pp*

ppp

Ped. *rit.* *Ped.*

1 *f* *f*

6

11

16 *mp* *p* *mf*

21

26 *rit.* *f*

35 *p*

40 *ff* *pp*

46 *mf* *f*

51

56 *mp* *mf* *f* *fff*