



Robert Casteels

Decennium for solo piano opus 109

for the tenth anniversary of the Composers Society (Singapore)

DECENNIUM

for solo piano opus 109 (60")

Tempo giusto ♩ = 140

Robert Casteels

15^{ma}-----|
C (e)S (e)S

ppp
una corda

Ped. _____

sempre ppp
senza Ped.

Ped. _____ | Ped. _____

pp
senza Ped.

tre corde
Ped. _____

10

$\frac{3}{4}$

(practical ossia)

senza Ped.

ancora pp

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12

8^{va}-----|

mp
Ped. _____



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14

mp

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 14 and 15. Measure 14 is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line in the right hand with a series of eighth notes, some beamed together, and a bass line with quarter notes. A piano pedal is indicated below the bass line. Measure 15 continues the melodic line in the right hand and has a bass line with quarter notes. The system concludes with a double bar line.

(practical ossia)

15

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 and 16. Measure 15 is in 4/4 time and features a complex melodic line in the right hand with many beamed eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. Measure 16 is in 5/4 time and features a melodic line in the right hand with a series of eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. The system concludes with a double bar line.

16

senza Ped. *mf*

(= 6 even notes in 5)

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16 and 17. Measure 16 is in 5/4 time and features a melodic line in the right hand with a series of eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. Measure 17 is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line in the right hand with a series of eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. A piano pedal is indicated below the bass line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

18

f

6:4

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18 and 19. Measure 18 is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line in the right hand with a series of eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. Measure 19 is in 3/4 time and features a melodic line in the right hand with a series of eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. A piano pedal is indicated below the bass line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Programme notes

Decennium, a one-minute piece for solo piano, was composed in response to the call of the Composers Society of Singapore -CS(S)- on the occasion of its tenth anniversary.

The piece comprises two elements.

The first element is a short cell consisting of three semiquavers on the pitches which correspond to the acronym of the CS(S), c (for letter C) and twice e flat (for letter S).

This cell does not vary rhythmically, with the exception of bars 21 to 24.

The cell appears 64 times (as in a sense of magnified happiness of 8 x 8).

The first pitch of each of the chords in bar 37 to 43 are respectively the 61st, 62nd and 63rd appearance of the cell.

The length of its appearance increases in a Fibonacci manner

(1♩ in bar 1, 2♩ in bar 8, 3♩ in bar 13, 5♩ in bar 16, 8♩ in bar 18 and 19, 13♩ in bars 21 to 24 and 21♩ in bars 26 to 35).

The register of its appearance alternates between high and low register to end in the central register of the piano.

This first element represents an inviting Happy Birthday call.

The second element is a pan-intervallic chord (that is, from low E upwards, successively, a major 7th, a minor 7th, a major 6th, a minor 6th, a perfect 5th, an augmented 4th, a perfect 4th, a major 3rd, a minor 3rd, a major 2nd and a minor 2nd). The chords in bar 37 to 43 are derived from this pan-intervallic chord.

The length of the appearance of this element decreases in a Fibonacci manner

(21♩ in bars 2 to 7, 13♩ in bar 9 to 2, 8♩ in bar 14 and 15, 5♩ in bar 17, 3♩ in bar 20, 2♩ in bar 25 and

1♩ silent in bar 36, sounded in the final bar).

The texture of this second element evolves from linear to intervallic to chordal.

Hanging gardens opus 105, *Cu Rua* op. 106 and *Aqua ignis* op. 107 are also based on this pan-intervallic chord.

This second contrasting element that comprises all the feasible intervals on a well-tempered piano represents the artistic open-mindedness of the CS(S) which accepts all styles.

The two elements cross over in bar 16, 18-19 and 21 to 24 [which also contains the final series of chords] and in the 21♩ section of bars 37 to 42 [which also contains the CS(S) call].

The dynamics increase stepwise from *ppp* to *fff*,

and decrease through the row of chords to conclude with a happy *ff*.

As requested by the CS(S), the duration of *Decennium* is exactly 60 seconds.

20

RH

5:4

ff

RH

RH

LH 7

LH

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

24

3

grace notes: RH

LH

fff

Ped.

grace notes: RH

Ped.

Ped.

29

33

NON dim.

The dialogue between the tre corde and the una corda staves is to be experimented within terms of timbral difference, not of volume **a tempo**

37

rit.

f tre corde

ff subito

rit.

a tempo

una corda

Ped. fff

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.