

Todd Tarantino
Smoke and Mirrors

Todd Tarantino

Smoke and Mirrors (2006)

Piano Solo

Program Note

The piano is my instrument and as such I was long attracted to and repelled from writing a solo piece for it. The temptation to write for my own fingers or to notate an improvisation was too great and the burden of the great works that I've played since childhood was too heavy. Yet, I wanted to write a work that I would enjoy playing and that was a respite from the loud, extremely dissonant works I had been writing for ensembles. Smoke and Mirrors is my nocturne.

My composition begins with a very simple musical concept. Twenty-four chords form an abstract harmonic progression. These chords are expanded or contracted to fill the registral space of the piano in two concurrent, though differently paced, cycles. The resultant sound mass is shaped and stretched. There are no melodies in Smoke and Mirrors, no progressions; only sound that moves, expands, contracts, lingers. The end of the piece is no different from the beginning.

In writing the work I was reminded of a trek I recently made in the high Karakoram mountains of Pakistan along the ancient Silk Route to Mintaka pass. Near the end of my trek, I had hoped to camp at a spot known as Gul Khwaja Uween but on approaching it I saw that a scree slope had collapsed and the valley was all but closed off. The next morning our guide tramped out a path on the slope and we clambered over to enter the sealed valley. Inside, the mountains rose, the glacier stood, the river coursed. In listening to Smoke and Mirrors the listener is similarly placed within an environment that moves around them.

Smoke and Mirrors is dedicated to pianist Barbara Lieurance.

Duration:

todd@toddtarantino.com

for Barbara Lieurance

Smoke and Mirrors

Todd Tarantino

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 28$ **Expressive**

mp *poco* *cresc.* *mf* *pp* *mp*

sempre molto pedale

25 16 5 4 4 3 5 4 89

90 3 9 4 94

4 5

6

8 8

3

4 2

5

5

5:3

poco cresc.

6

pp

4 4

8

4 4

rall.

3

3

3

3

17 8

a tempo

ppp

ppp

mp

5

3

5

5

poco rall.

9 4

a tempo

9/4 *poco* 3 *p* *pp* *mp* 3 7/4

11

3

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 11, 12, and 13. It is written for piano in a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'a tempo'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 11 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 12 includes a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 13 concludes with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

7/4 *mf* *p* *mp* 13/8 3/2

13

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 13, 14, and 15. It continues the piano piece in 4/4 time. Measure 13 begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 14 features a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 15 is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*). The score includes slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

2/3 3 13 8 *poco accel.* 3 2/3

mf

15

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 15 and 16. It is written for piano in a 2/3 time signature. Measure 15 features a melodic line in the right hand with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 16 continues the melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in measure 16. The tempo marking *poco accel.* is placed above the staff. Measure numbers 13 and 8 are written above the staff, and measure numbers 3 and 2/3 are written below the staff.

2/3 *a tempo* expressive 26 16 2 4 3

ppp p

17

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 17 and 18. It is written for piano in a 2/3 time signature. Measure 17 features a melodic line in the right hand with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 18 continues the melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *ppp* is present in measure 17, and *p* is present in measure 18. The tempo marking *a tempo* and the instruction *expressive* are placed above the staff. Measure numbers 26 and 16 are written above the staff, and measure numbers 2 and 4 are written below the staff.

20

20 3 7 4 2 2 6 4

mp *mf*

This system contains measures 20 through 23. Measure 20 is in 3/4 time and features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line with a 7th fret marking. Measure 21 is in 7/4 time with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. Measure 22 is in 2/2 time with a 5-measure slur in the right hand. Measure 23 is in 6/4 time with a 5-measure slur in the right hand and a 3-measure slur in the bass line. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.

23

6 4 13 8

This system contains measures 24 through 27. Measure 24 is in 6/4 time with a 3-measure slur in the right hand. Measure 25 is in 4/4 time with a 5-measure slur in the right hand. Measure 26 is in 13/8 time with a 3-measure slur in the right hand. Measure 27 is in 8/8 time with a 3-measure slur in the right hand and a 3-measure slur in the bass line.

Musical score for piano, measures 13-25. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef). Measure 13 is marked with a '13' and an '8' above it. The piece begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features complex textures with many beamed notes and chords. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) appears in measure 18. Trills and triplets are indicated with '3' and a bracket. The system ends at measure 25, which is marked with a '25' in a box.

Musical score for piano, measures 27-39. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef). Measure 27 is marked with a '27' in a box. The music continues with complex textures, including many beamed notes and chords. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), and *pp mf* (pianissimo mezzo-forte). Trills and triplets are indicated with '3' and a bracket. The system ends at measure 39, which is marked with a '13' and an '8' above it.

13
8

18
8

3

3

3

3

7
4

p

mp

29

7
4

3

3

3

6
16

5

3

5
8

3

5

31

5 8 7 8 3 8 7 16

f *mf* *mp*

poco rit.

5 3 3

33

7 16 3 2 4 3 3 3 3 4

p

36

a tempo

36 16

3 4

6 4

5

5

5

3

3

mp

39

3

poco rall.

a tempo

36 16

7 8

17 8

mf

p

mf

41

3

3

3

3

Musical score for measures 29-46. The score is written for piano and includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Measure numbers 29 and 16 are indicated at the top left. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A box containing the number 47 is located at the bottom left of the system.

Musical score for measures 47-65. The score is written for piano and includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Measure numbers 4 and 19 are indicated at the top left. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A box containing the number 49 is located at the bottom left of the system.

19 8 5 33 16

51

mf *p* *f*

33 16 3 4

52

poco rit. *a tempo*

57

poco rit. *a tempo*

4/4 *mf* 3 *pp* 3 *mf > p* 3 *mp* 3 *mf mp* 3

60

poco rit.

4/2 *mf* 3 *mp* 3 *mf* 3 *p* 3 *mf* 3

20 May 2006
 Cape Coast; New York
 Rev.
 28 December 2006
 New York