

Ancient Fugue

Anonymous
Arranged by Keith Kinder

This work belongs to that large body of early music for which we can identify neither the composer nor the occasion that stimulated its creation. Any clues to its origin must be deduced from the music itself, and in this case the evidence is contradictory, suggesting both Renaissance and Baroque styles. Renaissance characteristics include the fugue subject in long notes that acts like a cantus firmus, and the alternation (in close proximity) of flat and natural versions of the same pitch, which implies the ancient practice of musica ficta. On the other hand, the fugue as a form is associated with the Baroque, and the “cantus firmus” is a diatonic major scale, suggesting composition after the turn from modal to tonal music. At best, we can only surmise that the work dates from the late 16th or early 17th century.

In fact, this composition is a carefully worked out double fugue that is enjoyable to play and very effective in performance.

PREVIEW ONLY

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium
3 Trombones

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Moderato

Musical score for Trombone 1, 2, and 3, measures 1-7. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). Trombone 1 plays a series of whole notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Trombone 2 and 3 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes starting in measure 5. Dynamic markings include *mp* for Trombone 1 and Trombone 3.

Musical score for Trombone 1, 2, and 3, measures 8-15. Trombone 1 continues with whole notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Trombone 2 and 3 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *mf* for Trombone 2 and Trombone 3.

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Musical score for Trombone 1, 2, and 3, measures 16-23. Trombone 1 continues with whole notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Trombone 2 and 3 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *f* for Trombone 2 and *mf* for Trombone 3.

Musical score for Trombone 1, 2, and 3, measures 24-31. Trombone 1 continues with whole notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. Trombone 2 and 3 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamic marking includes *f* for Trombone 2.

32

mp

mf

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32 through 37. It features three staves in a grand staff. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The middle and bottom staves have bass clefs. Dynamics include *mp* (measures 32-34), *mf* (measures 35-37), and *mp* (measure 36). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations and slurs.

38

f

mf

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 38 through 44. It features three staves in a grand staff. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The middle and bottom staves have bass clefs. Dynamics include *f* (measures 38-40), *mf* (measures 41-42), and *f* (measures 43-44). The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and accents.

45

rit.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 through 50. It features three staves in a grand staff. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The middle and bottom staves have bass clefs. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present in measure 49. The system concludes with a double bar line in measure 50. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs.

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