

Composition Workshop APP 352

Composition Project 1 | “Preludes,” Part 1

The Prelude as a genre is an ideal study for modeling work. Open-ended in terms of form and character, the possible antecedents are numerous. Furthermore, the forms employed can vary from free-composed to binary or ternary, or even miniature rondos, sonatas or baroque dance forms.

For this project, compose between one and three preludes based on models of your choice. Bring scores and recordings of your selected models to class for discussion in the coming weeks. The variety of models will provide ample fodder for musical and technical discussions.

In composing your preludes, be able to demonstrate the technical (harmonic, contrapuntal, rhythmic, textural) and formal (motivic, structural, rhetorical) devices employed by your model. At least one of the pieces you write should employ a formal model. Your compositions need not be long to be effective. Take special note of the *economy* with which the composers on this list employ their material.

Instrumentation should be for solo piano. Other (small) instrumentations are acceptable with prior approval.

The following list is a great starting point, but by no means exhaustive.

Kabalevsky Thirty Pieces for Children, Op. 27

Starer Sketches in Colors, Vol. 1

Gershwin Three Preludes

Tcherepnin Bagatelles, Op. 5

Muczynski Six Preludes, Op. 6

Martin Eight Preludes

Stravinsky Les Cinq Doights

Scriabin Preludes

Bartok Bagatelles

Debussy Preludes

Tchaikovsky Album for the Young

Grieg Lyric Pieces

Schumann Album for the Young

Chopin Preludes; Etudes

Brahms Klavierstücke

Beethoven Bagatelles

Bach Inventions and Sinfonias; Well Tempered Clavier; Suites