

Score

Cataracts in Shattered Glass

For Solo Piano

By Aidan Gold

Duration: approx. 15 minutes

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Program Note

Cataracts in Shattered Glass is a piece for solo piano in 8 short movements. Each movement has its own unique character and atmosphere, but the movements are tied together through a process of gradual blurring and movement from disjunct, fragmentary music to a more continuous, flowing music. Imagine a glass- it is homogenous and thought of as one object but is very sharp and clear in its boundaries with other objects. Then, when the glass is first shattered, it becomes fragmentary and disjunct. However, when the pieces are shattered again over and over and over, eventually it becomes a pile of dust, which is once again homogenous and thought of as one object, but is much more blurred with its surroundings. Thus this piece is simultaneously a disintegration from sharp clarity to blurred ambiguity and a coalescence. The molecular structure (or the melodic content) remains the same throughout.

Cataracts in Shattered Glass

Musical score for measures 10-11. The piece is in 5/4 time. Measure 10 features a treble clef staff with a series of chords marked 8^{va} and a bass clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked 8^{sub} and a triplet of eighth notes marked 3 . Measure 11 features a treble clef staff with a series of chords marked 8^{va} and a bass clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked 3 and a quintuplet of eighth notes marked 5 . The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 12-15. The piece is in 5/4 time. Measure 12 features a treble clef staff with a series of chords marked 8^{va} and a bass clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked 3 . Measure 13 features a treble clef staff with a series of chords marked 15^{ma} and a bass clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked 3 . Measure 14 features a treble clef staff with a series of chords marked 8^{va} and a bass clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked 3 . Measure 15 features a treble clef staff with a series of chords marked 15^{ma} and 8^{va} and a bass clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked 3 . The piece concludes with a double bar line.

II: Shadows and Harps

brief, very fast strum immediately leading into the chord played on the keys. The exact beginning and ending notes of the strum are approximate.

Waltz ♩ = 116

quasi lopsided waltz, exaggerated phrasing (freely ped.)

cresc. sf

mp pp

molto rit. Steadily ♩ = 55

p pp mp p pp ppp

Ped. sempre

cresc. ff

depress silently (hold until end of movement)

42 strum strings softly up and down in this register

pp

depress sost. ped, lift sus. ped

III: Bell Fragments

43 Moderato Misterioso ♩ = 80

p *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Leg. sempre
all notes should ring as long as possible!

51

p *ppp* *p*

57

mp *mf* *f*

61

ff *fff*

64

lift ped. at end of measure

IV: Resonance in Crystal

Presto ♩ = 160
very short *long*

67 *ff* *let echo in low strings* *f* *f* *sfz* *mf* *ff*

(depress lowest oct. silently)

8^{vb} - - - -
 sempre sost. ped.

(senza sustain ped.)

76 *sfz* *mf*

83 *p* *sfz* *sfz*

89 *mf* *p*

95 *ff*

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems of music. Each system contains a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The tempo is marked 'Presto' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 160. The score includes various dynamic markings such as fortissimo (ff), piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), sforzando (sfz), and piano (p). Performance instructions include 'let echo in low strings', 'depress lowest oct. silently', and 'sempre sost. ped.' (pedal). The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and changing time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 7/4). The piece concludes with a final fortissimo (ff) dynamic.

102

f *mf* *mp*

111

sfz *p* *mf* *mf*

118

f *ff* *ffff poss.*

(play very short; let sost. pedal sustain)

(lift sost. ped)

8^{vb}

V: Shards of Glass Fire

Allegro drammatico ♩ = 138

124 *f* senza ped.

128 *pp* *f* *ff*

133 *mf* *cresc.* *ff*

138 with some ped.

142 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

146

Detailed description: This is a page of a piano score for the piece 'Shards of Glass Fire'. The music is in 4/4 time and marked 'Allegro drammatico' with a tempo of 138 beats per minute. The score is divided into six systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system (measures 124-127) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and 'senza ped.' instruction. The second system (measures 128-132) features a piano (*pp*) dynamic followed by a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third system (measures 133-137) includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic with a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The fourth system (measures 138-141) is marked 'with some ped.'. The fifth system (measures 142-145) features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic with a 'poco a poco' crescendo. The sixth system (measures 146-149) continues the piece. The score is heavily characterized by triplet patterns in both hands, often with accents. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the piece concludes in 2/4 time.

149 *ff* senza ped.

152

156 *fff*

159 *fp* cresc.

163 *molto rit.* Suddenly still and calm ♩ = 45

fff *pp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *mp*

grad. add ped. ----- *Rec.* senza ped! *Rec.*

167

pp *ppp* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Rec. *Rec.* *Rec.*

VI. Radiant Void

Freely. Very Slow

(octave harms.) (2-octave harms.) (pluck str. w/fingernail) (strum strs) (on keys)

170

strike palm on strs (just long enough to mute Eb) *mp* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

f *mf*

scord. sempre

(7th-partial harm.) (5th harm.) (maj. 3rd harms.)

mf *p* *ppp* *p* *f* *pp*

(scrape str w/fingernail) *mf*

harm. gliss (away from hammers)

175

f *mp* *pp* *ppp* *ff* *pp*

cresc. poco a poco *ff*

$\text{♩} = 70$

178

pp *ppp*

una corda

8va *8va* *8va* *8va*

Free

188

ppp *pppp*

8va *8va*

7/16 7/16

VII: Through a Fractured Mirror

Dance-like ♩ = 70

194

mp pp mp pp mp mp mp

sempre legato, ped. freely

Detailed description: This system contains measures 194 through 200. The music is written for piano in a 7/4 time signature. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of mezzo-piano (mp) and pianissimo (pp). The left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The tempo is marked as 'Dance-like' with a quarter note equal to 70 beats per minute.

200

p mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 200 through 204. The music continues in 7/4 time. The right hand has a more active melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of piano (p) and mezzo-piano (mp). The left hand continues with a steady accompaniment.

204

p dim. pp mp pp mp pp mp pp

ped.-----1/2 ped. (freely ped.)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 204 through 208. The music is in 7/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of piano (p), diminuendo (dim.), and pianissimo (pp). The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings of mezzo-piano (mp) and pp. A pedal instruction indicates a half-pedal effect.

208

mp pp cresc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 208 through 212. The music is in 7/4 time. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of mezzo-piano (mp) and pianissimo (pp), with a crescendo (cresc.) marking. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

212

mf molto dim. pp mp p mp p mp p

ped.-----1/2 ped. (freely ped.)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 212 through 219. The music is in 7/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of mezzo-forte (mf), molto diminuendo (molto dim.), and pianissimo (pp). The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings of mezzo-piano (mp) and piano (p). A pedal instruction indicates a half-pedal effect.

219

mp p mp p sf-p sf-p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 219 through 225. The music is in 7/4 time. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of mezzo-piano (mp) and piano (p), followed by sforzando-piano (sf-p) markings. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

227

mp *sf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

231

p *dim.* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

ped. ----- 1/2 ped. (freely ped.)

236

p *mp* *p* *mp* *dim.* *pp*

ped. ----- 1/2 ped. (freely ped.)

240

246

250

mp *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

ped. ----- 1/2 ped. (freely ped.)

256

p *sf*

261

mp *p*

264

pp *mp* *ppp* *cresc.*

Reo ----- 1/2 ped. (freely ped.)

270

p *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

280

f *cresc.* *ff* *cresc.*

288

fff *hammeringly*

291

295

297

molto dim.

pp

300

Reo. - - - - - 1/2 ped. * (senza ped)

307

Reo.

314

Reo.

316

molto rit.

VIII. Fading Reflection, Waves of Time

Flowing, blurred $\text{♩} = 80+$

pp

318

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Leg. sempre
sempre una corda

320

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The right hand continues with complex chordal textures, and the left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

322

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The right hand features more intricate chordal patterns, and the left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

324

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords, and the left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

326

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords, and the left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

328

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords, and the left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

330

332

334

336

338 *poco a poco dim.*

340

342 *ppp dim.*

Repeat and fade
strum strings softly up and down
in this register