

Peter Knell

Rhythm Changes

for violin and piano

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

Peter Knell

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Biography

Peter Knell (b. 1970) has received numerous awards in national and international competitions, including First Prizes in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's 10th New Music Festival International Composers Competition, the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival/Louisville Orchestra Prize, and the Omaha Symphony Guild International New Music Competition, as well as Second Prizes in the Fourth International Witold Lutoslawski Composers Competition, the First International Composers' Competition "In Memoriam Zoltán Kodály", and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Competition. Peter was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, a BMI Student Composer Award, two ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Awards, grants from the Paloheimo Foundation and Meet the Composer, and commissions from the Fromm Music Foundation/Ying Quartet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, Utah Arts Festival, Pacific Serenades, Oakland East Bay Symphony, and Dale Warland Singers, among others.

Peter's music has been performed at the Aspen, Bowdoin, Chautauqua, June in Buffalo, Norfolk, Oregon Bach, Ernest Bloch, New Music North and MATA festivals, by ensembles such as the Hungarian Radio Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, Filharmonia de Stat "Transilvania", Winnipeg, Omaha, Richmond, Memphis, and Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestras, the Doric String Quartet, Onyx String Quartet, Verdi Quartet, Southwest Chamber Music, Volti Chamber Chorus, counter)induction, and by soloists including James Dunham, Martin Chalifour, and the German alto Ingeborg Danz. It has been broadcast in Russia, Canada, Hungary and Finland, as well as in several American cities. His orchestral work *LINES/ANGLES* was the American selection for the ISCM World Music Days 2009 and was performed in September 2009 by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Peter's solo violin work *Seven Last Words*, based on paintings of German artist Rolf Stein, is available in a book/compact disc format from Valve-Hearts, Cologne. A compact disc featuring his orchestral work, "...the weakening eye of day" in a live performance by the Budapest Symphony Orchestra is available on the Artisjus label, and a compact disc featuring German pianist Susanne Kessel performing two of his *Four Snapshots* is available on OehmsClassics. A compact disc of Peter's complete piano music performed by German pianist Markus Pawlik was released by Sono Luminus in 2013.

Peter holds degrees from Princeton University (BA), the Juilliard School (MM), and the University of Texas at Austin (DMA), and he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. His principal composition teachers have included Dan Welcher, Donald Grantham, and David Diamond. He is currently based in Los Angeles.

Program Note

Rhythm Changes was composed in 2002 for Cologne-based *duo lirico*, who gave the premiere of the work in January 2003. My preceding works, *Dialogues* for viola and piano and *LINES/ANGLES* for orchestra, had been growing in harmonic and melodic complexity. *Rhythm Changes* represented a shift to a more lighthearted affect and an embrace of my American musical heritage. As the title suggests, it pays homage to Gershwin and to the jazz tradition of building new works on the harmonic progression ("changes") from "I Got Rhythm", though highly sublimated. Unable to resist the musical pun, the work is also an exploration of constantly shifting rhythms.

Rhythm Changes

Peter Knell (2002)

Relaxed (♩ = 54) *poco rit.* *a tempo*
mf espr. (IV) 3 *p*

Relaxed (♩ = 54) *poco rit.* *a tempo*
p

4 *accel.* *pp* 3 *mf* *p* ♩ = 69

6 *accel.* *mf* *p* ♩ = 69

* This notation indicates a brief hold.

8 *a tempo* *f* *pp* sul tasto

8 *a tempo* *mf* *pp*

11 *p* *mf* *pp*

13 *pp* *p* sul tasto

15 *II* *I II III II III II I II* *f* *5*

17 *pp* *f* *5*

17 *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

19 *p* *mf* *pp* *a tempo* *♩ = 69*

19 *p* *pp* *a tempo* *♩ = 69*

21 *mf* 3

Musical score for measures 21-22. The top staff is a single melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *mf*.

23 *f* *piu f* 3 6 7 5

Musical score for measures 23-24. The top staff has a melodic line with accents and a change from 4/4 to 3/4. The bottom staff has a piano accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes and a change from 4/4 to 3/4. Dynamics include *f* and *piu f*.

25 *ff* *piu f* *ff* 5 6 7

Musical score for measures 25-26. The top staff has a melodic line with accents and a change from 3/4 to 4/4. The bottom staff has a piano accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes and a change from 3/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *ff* and *piu f*.

27 *pp* sul tasto

27 *pp*

29

29

31

31

32 *p*

32 *mf* *p*

pp

35 *pp*

35 *p* *pp* *p*

39 *pp*

39 *pp* *p* *pp*

42 Delicate, introspective (♩ = 108)

Delicate, introspective

pp

pp

45

45

(sempre pp)

48

48

f

p

51

p

51

54

mp

54

57

57

60

60

Ossia: Play top note only.

63

63

66

66

69

69

69

72

72

72

75

75

75

78

81

Playful ♩ = 144

f

81

Playful ♩ = 144

pp

84

→ sul pont.

ord.

p

f

trb

84

mf

p

87 *p* *f* *p*

90 *p* *mf* *mf*

94 *p* *f* *p* *pizz.* *mp* *p* *f* *p*

98

p

98 10 12

100

f

100 10 12

102

p

102 10 12

105

105

107

107

arco

f

fp

f

p

110

110

p

pizz.

110

pp

114

arco *p.* *f* *p* pizz.

118

arco *f* *p*

121

125

f *p*

129

f *p*

132

f *pizz.* *arco* *p*

f
Ped. (sempre)

135 pizz. arco pizz. arco

Musical score for measures 135-137. The top staff is a single melodic line with dynamics 'pizz.' and 'arco'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

138 pizz. arco

Musical score for measures 138-140. The top staff has dynamics 'pizz.' and 'arco'. The bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment. The time signature changes to 2/4 at the end of measure 140.

141 *f* *p*

Musical score for measures 141-143. The top staff has dynamics 'f' and 'p'. The bottom staff has dynamics 'f' and 'p'. The time signature changes to 4/4 at the end of measure 141.

*

144

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

148

p cresc. *p cresc.*

151

f *f*

153

p cresc.

p cresc.

156

ff

ff

159

pp

pp

162

ff

ff *p* *f*

165

ff *p* *f*

167

p

170

half ped.

173

f *sfz*

176

f

179

half ped.

Driving (♩ = 108)

183

ff

fff

Driving (♩ = 108)

ff

ff

187

191

mf cresc.

191

mf cresc.

195

mf cresc.

195

mf cresc.

201

ff *mf*

201

ff *f*

204

p

p

206

Glissando

208

f

f

210

ff *sub p* *ff*

213

$\text{♩} = 144$ *ff* *ff*

216

ff *ff*

219

ff

223

pp

p (to the fore)

227

cresc.

* In this passage, dotted slurs indicate phrasing within staccato; regular slurs indicate legato.

231

O 3 2 V II III IV III

231

mf

p

234

V II III II I II III IV III II I II III IV III II I I II III IV

234

p

237

237

poco a poco cresc.

240

mf *p*

243

f

246

p poco a poco cresc.

249

249

252

ff

252

ff

255

255

258

258

261

$\bullet = 132$

ff

261

$\bullet = 132$

ff

261

265

p

265

f

265

269

mf

272

f (sempre)

276

f (sempre)

280 *sul pont.*

f

283 *sul pont.*

f

mf

286

f (sempre)

289 *sul pont.*

f

292 *poco ponticello (a la electric guitar)*

f

295

298

ff

301

ord.

304

p

307 *mf*

307 *mf*

310 *f* *sul pont.*

310 *f* *sul pont.*

cadenza ord. *f*

cadenza ord. *f*

313 *cadenza* *ff*

313 *cadenza* *ff*

314

314

315

315

a tempo

317

a tempo

317

320

ff *f*

323

f *ff*

326

sfz *ff*

330

Musical score for measures 330-331. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef, featuring a triplet of eighth notes and a long slur. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff, with chords and moving lines in both treble and bass clefs.

332

(♩ = 66)

♩ → ♩ (♩ = 44)

pp

332

♩ → ♩ (♩ = 44)

ppp

8va

Musical score for measures 332-333. Measure 332 includes a tempo change from 66 to 44. The top staff has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *pp*. The bottom staff features piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *ppp* and an *8va* marking above the treble clef.

335

3

3

335

(8va)

Musical score for measures 335-336. Measure 335 includes a triplet of eighth notes. The top staff has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *pp*. The bottom staff features piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *ppp* and an *8va* marking above the treble clef.