

FREDERIC RZEWSKI

STUDY I

FOR PIANO

(1961)

To Bill Mayors
in Memory of savings spent
in the PENSIONE BARTOLINI

Frederic Rzewski

THE PIECE HAS THREE PARTS.

AT FIRST THE PARTS SHOULD BE TREATED AS POSSESSING A CERTAIN UNITY, I.E. PLAYED THROUGH CONTINUOUSLY AT A SELECTED TEMPO.

IN PART C YOU MUST CHANGE THE TEMPO EVERY TIME YOU REACH THE SIGN "V".

GIVE THE MUSIC A FORM; FOR EXAMPLE, FIRST PLAY PART A VERY SLOWLY (ALLOWING UP TO 20 SECONDS BETWEEN EACH NOTE), THEN PART B AT A MODERATE TEMPO; THEN REPEAT PART A VERY FAST, THEN PART C WITH ODD-NUMBERED SECTIONS FAST AND EVEN ONES SLOW, THEN REPEAT PART A AT A MODERATE TEMPO, THEN REPEAT PART B SLOWLY, ETC.

YOU MAY GO ON AS LONG AS YOU LIKE AND THE PARTS MAY BE REPEATED AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE, BUT THE PIECE MUST BE STOPPED AS SOON AS YOU FIND YOU ARE NOT CONCENTRATING.

CERTAIN NOTES, PARTICULARLY AT SLOW TEMPI, MAY BE PLAYED AS GRACE NOTES OR EVEN OMITTED. PRACTICE ARBITRARILY STOPPING FOR A WHILE. FRAGMENTS MAY BE REPEATED BEFORE CONTINUING. USE THESE THREE METHODS (OMISSION, CESSATION, REPETITION) IN PERFORMANCE.

B

A handwritten musical score consisting of six staves. The notation is a form of shorthand, possibly for guitar or piano, using dots, lines, and symbols like #, b, and 8. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic and melodic symbols, such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, often grouped with stems and beams. Some symbols are enclosed in boxes or have additional markings above them. The score is written in ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper.



C

A handwritten musical score consisting of ten staves. The notation is complex, featuring various musical symbols including notes, rests, accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals), and dynamic markings (e.g., *ff*, *f*, *mf*, *p*). The score is written in a style that suggests it is a personal or working manuscript. The notation includes many beamed notes, suggesting rapid passages or tremolos. There are also some unusual markings, such as a large 'V' on the fourth staff and a 'C' in a box at the top. The bottom right corner features a small logo with a lyre and the text 'G.B.Y. 1900'.