



Johann Pachelbel

Canon

(over a Basso Ostinato)

for Piano Solo

Arranged by Denes Agay



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Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), outstanding South German composer-organist of the pre-Bach era, composed this canon for three violins with keyboard accompaniment. As was the general practice of the period the accompaniment was notated only with a bass line (*basso continuo*). This continually recurring eight-note bass part (*basso ostinato*) also indicated the harmonic texture which the performer filled in in a freely improvised manner.

In this piano version all the thematic materials are from the original, the accompaniment patterns (broken chords, etc.) are by the transcriber. Dynamic and phrasing marks are also editorial additions. All this is well within the boundaries of stylistic baroque performance practices which allowed the performer considerable latitudes.

One final suggestion for the player of today. Contrapuntal forms and textures are not incompatible with expressive interpretation. Romantic sentimentality is, of course, out of the question, but deep feeling, even passion are not.

Denes Agay

CANON

(over a Basso Ostinato)
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(1653-1706)

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Duration: c. 3'

Andantino (♩=72)

The musical score is written for piano solo in G major and 3/4 time. It features a basso ostinato in the left hand and a canon in the right hand. The tempo is Andantino (♩=72). The score is divided into five systems, each containing four measures. The first system begins with a piano (p) dynamic. The second system includes a first entrance (1*) marked with a box. The third system includes a second entrance (2) marked with a box. The fourth system includes a third entrance (3) marked with a box. The fifth system includes a fourth entrance (4) marked with a box. The score concludes with a fifth entrance (5) marked with a box. Dynamics range from piano (p) to mezzo-piano (mp).

*Numbers in boxes indicates the canonic theme entrances.

6 *mf*

7 *f*

8 *mf*

9 *f*

10 *espr.* *p*

11

mf

poco rit.

12 Poco meno mosso

f

cantando

rit.

13 Tempo I°

mf

cresc. sempre

14

f

ff grandioso

allargando

molto