

George Gershwin

# 3 Preludes

für Orgel  
for Organ

Bearbeitet von / Arranged by  
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## Vorwort

Aufgeschriebene Jazzmusik ist keine wirkliche. Davon sind Vertreter dieses Fachs bis heute überzeugt. War George Gershwin Jazzmusiker? Zumindest hat er den Jazz (Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock) unzweifelhaft beeinflusst. Seine Impulse auf die Musik Igor Strawinskis und Arnold Schönbergs verraten aber auch die klassisch-traditionelle Seite seiner Musik. Die gegenwärtige Orgelmusik-Kultur tut sich schwer mit zeitgenössischer klassischer Musik. Um dennoch auch „moderne“ Impulse zu setzen, werden bei kirchlichen Orgelmusikangeboten gerne Jazzelemente verwendet, ohne das dabei wirklich auf Jazz hinausgeherauskäme. Nicht nur wegen der Orgelbegeisterung Gershwins bieten wir Ihnen hier geradezu an, auf der Orgel verwirklicht zu werden. Es sind „Präjuden“ im traditionellen Gewand: Charakteristische, ostinative Spielfiguren, die sich durchweg wie Gershwins „modernisiert“ diesen Typus, indem er dem Spielgänger ein durchgehendes Rhythmus-Ostinato hinzugesellt. Seine Rhythmus-Ostinata sind im 1. Prelude – ganz im Stil des „New-Orleans-Jazz“ – präsent. Es sind wie die „Beats“, die den Kompositionen selbst bei züglicher Tempolösung einen lebendigen Charakter verleihen. Es wäre deshalb sicher auch denkbar, diese Stücke im Gottesdienst oder Messe als musikalische Eucharistie zu verwenden. Überdies aber als Studienobjekte „wirklicher“ Jazzmusik auf der Kirchenorgel. Gershwin musizierte seine *Preludes* immer mit einem Ostinato, wie eine Swing und übertriebene Rubati. Jedoch im angebotenen Zusammenhang mit den Metronomangaben. In diesem Sinne wären Anpassungen an Ihre Orgel, die Stücke ganz im Sinne des Komponisten.

Bei den vorliegenden Preludes handelt es sich um Bearbeitungen für die Orgel. Viel eher sind es Bearbeitungen von Lisztschen Klavierstücken, die die Möglichkeiten des Zielinstruments. Es sind Bearbeitungen, die sich nicht nur um die Frage, was „ganz gut“ ist, sondern auch um die Frage, was „ganz gut“ in diesem Sinne gestaltet sein kann. Als ideale Orgel kommt für diese Stücke eine kleine bis mittlere romantischen Orgeln der Orgelbauart „Hochromanik“ in Frage, die mit diesen in den in und breiten „Sounds“ in Frage. Ihre Orgelbauart sollte die Rhythmus-Ostinata unterstützen. Wirkungsvoll wäre auch ein „Hochromanik“ oder gar ein „Hochromanik“-Pedalharmonium. Gershwins Stücke sind insbesondere in den Tempobereichen leicht sukzessiv anzuschlagen sprachen, was die Dynamik der Orgel bestimmen in dessen Instrumentationen für die Orgel. Die Orgelbauart sollte die Rhythmus-Ostinata unterstützen.

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## Preface

Authentic jazz music can't be written down – as exponents of the genre maintain to this day. Was George Gershwin a jazz musician? He certainly influenced jazz (Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock), but his interest in the music of Igor Stravinsky and Arnold Schoenberg is reflected in the classical and traditional aspects of his music.

Organists today have a difficult relationship with contemporary classical music. Jazz elements are often added to performances of church organ music in order to give it a 'modern' flavour, yet this does not result in the creation of authentic jazz music. Gershwin's music on the organ is not the only reason for performing his *Three Preludes* on the instrument. These preludes in the traditional sense, characterized by ostinato figures that establish the mood, as motifs – and Gershwin 'modernised' this form by bringing in syncopated and complex rhythms to these ostinato figures. His ostinato rhythms – particularly in the first and third – are definitely in the style of New Orleans jazz. A gentle, but rocking, character pervades all three positions a meditative, contemplative character even in the rapid tempo. It would be entirely appropriate to use these 'mood pieces' in church settings during the intermission. They may also be studied as models of 'authentic' jazz music. Gershwin always played his Preludes 'very ritmatically', with strong rhythms and exaggerated *rubato*, of course, but with appropriate phrasing and some markings. Adapting these to suit the instrument as a church organ would be entirely in the spirit of the composer.

The Preludes presented here are not mere adaptations. They are arrangements rather in the spirit of Liszt, designed to draw out the best of the instruments for which they are destined. The focus is not so much on the reproduction of the original as on the question of what it would be like to interpret it. To do this we adopt the same approach.

The ideal instrument for performance of these Preludes might be one of the late Romantic organs by Heintze, Roosevelt, or similar, with a rich and varied timbre and a powerful sound quality: their percussive action would provide the support for Gershwin's rhythms. A Walcker 'Kegelladen' organ with a heavy pedal harp system would also be effective. Gershwin's music is particularly well suited to the hands of a pianist, especially at rapid tempo, and the use of a piano would be favoured. The instrumentation suggest the use

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Translation Julia Rushworth

"My favorite instrument is the church organ.  
But my main problem is that the church  
don't favorites my music."  
G. Gershwin

# Prelude 1

Allegro ben ritmato e deciso ♩ = 100

HW *con licenza*

*a tempo*

Orgel

Pedal

15

Musical score for measures 15-19. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand melody starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes accents and slurs. The left hand accompaniment is marked *pp* and includes a *simile* marking. The piece concludes with a fermata over a whole note chord.

20

Musical score for measures 20-23. The score continues in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features a melody with triplets and a dynamic of *mf*, marked *HW*. The left hand accompaniment is marked *mf*. The piece concludes with a fermata over a whole note chord, marked *SW p*.

24

Musical score for measures 24-27. The score continues in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features a melody with triplets and a dynamic of *mf*, marked *SW*. The left hand accompaniment is marked *pp* and includes a *simile* marking. The piece concludes with a fermata over a whole note chord, marked *f* and *p*.

33

Musical score for measures 33-36. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff. The music is in a minor key. Measures 33-36 feature a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the upper staves and block chords in the lower staves.

37

Musical score for measures 37-40. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff. The music continues with similar textures to the previous system, including sixteenth-note runs and block chords. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in measure 37.

41

Musical score for measures 41-44. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff. The music continues with similar textures. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 41.

Musical score for measures 45-48. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff. The music continues with similar textures. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measure 45.

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*poco rit.*

49

HW

53

SW

56

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

HW