

Alvin Singleton

1958

## ARGORU I

for Piano

für Klavier

Edited by/Herausgegeben von

Laura Gordy

ED 30022

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**PREVIEW**  
Low Resolution

## Preface

The word *argoru* comes from the Ghanaian Twi language and means "to play." ARGORU I for piano is the first in a series of virtuoso pieces for solo instruments, including cello, flute, viola, bass clarinet, alto flute, marimba, vibraphone and snare drum. To play ARGORU I, the performer must be prepared to explore complex rhythmic and melodic textures, frequent shifts of dynamics and range. The melodic lines bounce along like a roller coaster, often interrupted by clusters that serve as tonal pillars. The material is playful and rhythmic, climaxes in a burst of controlled improvisation. An intellectually rigorous work, ARGORU I nevertheless maintains a playfulness and spontaneity. ARGORU I was composed by pianist Lea Bissell and was premiered on May 1, 1970 in Sprague Memorial Hall at the University of

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## Vorwort

Das Wort „argoru“ kommt aus dem Dialekt Twi, welcher in Ghana gesprochen wird, und übersetzt schlicht „spielen“ bedeutet. ARGORU I für Klavier ist der erste Teil einer Serie virtuoser Stücke für Soloinstrumente, wie Cello, Flöte, Viola, Bass, Oboe, Altflöte, Marimba, Vibraphon und kleine Trommel. Um ARGORU I zu spielen, muss der Ausführende bereit sein, komplexe Rhythmen, sowie manchmal ungewöhnliche, unerwartete Verschiebungen in der Dynamik und im Tonumfang zu meistern. Die melodischen Linien springen vorüber, wie atonale Jazz-Melodien, die von rhythmischen Mustern unterbrochen werden, welche als tonale Säulen die Harmonik bilden. Die Musik ist nicht nur notiert, bis es schließlich im Höhepunkt kontrollierter Intensität endet. Ein gedanklich rigoroses Werk, gleichwohl ARGORU I durchweg eine gewisse Leichtigkeit und Ungezwungenheit enthält. ARGORU I wurde von der Pianistin Lee Changwon komponiert und am 1. Mai 1970 in der Sprague Memorial Church in Berkeley, Kalifornien, durchgeführt.

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by Thorsten Glatterbeck

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to Lea

# ARGORU I

♩ = 66

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Musical score for the first system of 'ARGORU I'. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 66. The first measure of the treble staff has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The bass staff has a piano-piano (pp) dynamic. Pedal markings include 'Ped. 1 = damper' and 'Ped. 2 = sostenuto' in the left hand, and 'Ped. 2' in the right hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

Musical score for the second system of 'ARGORU I'. It continues the grand staff notation. The treble staff begins with a piano-piano (pp) dynamic. The bass staff continues with a piano-piano (pp) dynamic. The music includes various rhythmic patterns and articulations.

Musical score for the third system of 'ARGORU I'. The treble staff features a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The bass staff has a piano-piano (pp) dynamic. The system includes complex rhythmic figures and dynamic markings.

Musical score for the fourth system of 'ARGORU I'. The treble staff has a piano-piano (pp) dynamic. The bass staff has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The system concludes with a final bass clef line.

2

13

pp ff

5

3

pp

This system contains measures 13 and 14. Measure 13 features a treble clef with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. Measure 14 features a treble clef with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. The bass clef has a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes.

Ped. 2

15

ff pp

This system contains measures 15 and 16. Measure 15 features a bass clef with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. Measure 16 features a bass clef with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord.

16

ff pp

5

pp Ped. 2

This system contains measures 17 and 18. Measure 17 features a treble clef with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. Measure 18 features a treble clef with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. The bass clef has a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord.

This system contains measures 19 and 20. Measure 19 features a treble clef with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. Measure 20 features a treble clef with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord. The bass clef has a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a five-fingered chord.

20

(count: ♩. ♩. ♩.)

Musical score for measures 20-21. Measure 20 features a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a dynamic of *ff*. The bass clef has a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 21 continues with dynamics of *ff* and *pp*. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the page.

22

Musical score for measures 22-23. Measure 22 includes a triplet in the treble clef and a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 23 features a dynamic of *ff*. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the page.

24

Musical score for measures 24-25. Measure 24 has a dynamic of *ff*. Measure 25 has a dynamic of *pp*. A 'Ped. 2' marking is present in measure 25. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the page.

Musical score for measures 26-27. Measure 26 has a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 27 includes fingerings 5 and 6. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the page.