

John Oliver

Emperor Under Glass

for piano

(2009)

Duration: 2:20

Program Note

I wrote Emperor Under Glass in a single day on Monday December 7, 2009 as a response to an open invitation from Australia's Aurora Festival to create a new work for solo piano on the theme of "Momentary Pleasures." Beethoven's Emperor concerto played every week on our turntable while I was growing up. I loved the opening energetic arpeggios and was always disappointed when the main theme came in. Thus, these arpeggios were a momentary pleasure that I wished could go on forever. Now I understand it is the resonance to which I was attracted, and which quietly becomes the subject in my short piece.

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for the 2010 Aurora Festival
Emperor under Glass

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Allegro ♩ = 128

ff

Ped.

3

(8) ♩ = 132 **rall.** ♩ = 100 ♩ = 128

ff *f*

tr

5

rall. **rit.** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 100

ff

Ped.

10

ff *fff* *f*

Ped.

14

rall. **A Tempo**

ff *fff* *f*

Ped.

2
19

accel. . . . ♩ = 120 A Tempo

Musical score for measures 19-21. The piece is in 5/4 time. Measure 19 features a complex chordal texture in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Measure 20 shows a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Measure 21 has a forte (f) dynamic in the right hand and a fortissimo (fff) dynamic in the left hand. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 19, 20, and 21.

22

accel. . . . ♩ = 120

accel. . . . ♩ = 136

Musical score for measures 22-24. Measure 22 has a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Measure 23 features a sixteenth-note run in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Measure 24 has a sixteenth-note run in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 22, 23, and 24.

25

♩ = 90

♩ = 69

Musical score for measures 25-31. Measures 25-26 are marked mezzo-forte (mf). Measures 27-31 are marked mezzo-piano (mp). The score consists of sustained chords in both hands. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 25, 27, 29, and 31.

32

♩ = 120

Musical score for measures 32-33. Measure 32 is marked fortissimo (ff) and contains triplets and quintuplets in both hands. Measure 33 continues with triplets and quintuplets. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 32 and 33.

33

♩ = 136

rall. . . .

trill ♩ = 90

molto rall. . . .

Musical score for measures 33-34. Measure 33 features a trill in the right hand and a trill in the left hand. Measure 34 is marked mezzo-forte (mf) and piano (p). Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 33 and 34.

