

Kirk O'Riordan

Three Pieces

for
Solo Piano

Kirk O’Riordan (b. 1968)

Three Pieces for Solo Piano (2002)

Notes

Three Pieces for Solo Piano was written for and is dedicated to Holly Roadfeldt-O’Riordan. She premiered the work on March 21, 2003 at the College Music Society Rocky Mountain Chapter Conference.

The first movement, Moto Perpetuo, features a galloping melody set against a stream of sixteenth notes. The second, Cadenza-Espressivo, uses bell-like sonorities which are constructed from the pitch material of the third movement. The Toccata is a tremendously virtuosic work which uses virtually every note on the keyboard, ending with large chords reminiscent of the first movement.

The pieces use a more dissonant language than I have used in the past, placing emphasis on such traditionally dissonant intervals as the tritone and the minor second (particularly in the third movement). The result, however, is a surprisingly tonal (though chromatic) sound which generates a great deal of energy.