
Tangents

for solo piano

Laura M. Kramer

Duration: 9-10 min.

Program Note

Tangents takes the form of its title, and is nearly a four movement work integrated into one. The sweeping opening gesture develops by “going off on tangents” throughout contrasting sections. The first states the motive with lively character, the second is more lyrical, while the third is playful, resembling a scherzo, and the fourth is the finale.

This was primarily a learning piece. I was intrigued by the idea of writing something that sounds virtuosic, yet is still idiomatic. Brahms, Chopin, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Liszt were masters at capturing this element, and their works are all still widely performed today. Perhaps some of the ideas in the work are not so modern sounding, but being innovative was not the intent of the piece. I did not use any quotations, but I wanted the work to be an homage to those composers, and therefore incorporated stylistic devices characteristic of their music. While studying various intermezzos, concertos and sonatas, I was able to uncover their tricks, and after having studied and modeled from them, I now can transform those techniques into my own language.

I started composing *Tangents* a few weeks before my move from eastern Pennsylvania to Bloomington, Indiana. It began as a reaction to one of my last sketches composed as an undergraduate at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and then took its shape while beginning studies in a new atmosphere.

Tangents was premiered at the 2007 Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, University of Chicago, and has been performed at Indiana University.

October 2006

Tangents

for solo piano

With Sweeping Gestures ♩ = ca.80

Laura M. Kramer (b. 1984)

The musical score is divided into four systems, each labeled 'Piano' or 'Pno.' on the left. The first system is in common time (C) and features a melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a five-note sweep. The second system is in 4/4 time, with a six-note sweep and a 'continue pedal' instruction. The third system is in 4/4 time, marked 'una corda' and 'pp', with an 8va octave marking and dynamic changes to 'mf', 'f', and 'p'. The fourth system is in 3/4 time, marked 'p cresc.' and 'blurred', with 5 and 6 note sweeps and a 'freely' instruction.

9 *poco rit.*

Pno. *f* *mp*

continue pedal less pedal

A Tempo

Pno. *mf* *f* *mp*

pedal ad lib.

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*

Pno. *f* *ff* *mp* *calmer*

agitated

19 **Flowing** 3

Pno. *p* *mp*

pedal ad lib.

22

Pno. *f* *joyous* *mp*

25

Pno. *mf* *playful* *less pedal*

poco accel..

27

Pno. *f* *mp* *pedal ad lib., lightly*

A Tempo ♩ = ca.80