

Jeffrey Ryan

Saturn

(study in white)

for piano solo

Perusal Copy

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Performance notes:

Timing: ca. 3'10"

Pedal markings must be carefully observed.

Programme note:

The name "Saturn" immediately conjures up images of the planet's spectacular ring system, first identified over three hundred years ago. Now known to be comprised primarily of small chunks of water ice, Saturn's seven distinct rings are labelled alphabetically by astronomers, from the innermost D Ring outward through the C, B, A, F, G, and E Rings. This labelling translates directly to a series of seven pitches, all of them white notes on the keyboard. Repeating this series up an octave, then up another octave, results in the 21-note set which (aside from a low cluster representing the mass of the planet itself) make up the entire pitch content of this short study. After a spacious, bell-like opening, the many tiny fragments whose reflected light we see merged into rings are represented by circling minimalist gestures combined with pedal effects, fanning outwards to close with a single particle.

Saturn (study in white) was commissioned by pianist Rachel Kiyō Iwaasa as part of the piano suite *Cosmophony*.

to Christiaan Huygens

Saturn

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$\bullet = 42$ Spaciously

mf

p bell-like

mf

p

loco

loco

8va-

8vb-

ped. (keep pedal down)

$\bullet = 84$ Gently shimmering, like a Seurat painting

sempre legato

p

(pedal still down) →

(pedal still down) →

(pedal)

mf sub.

p sub.

mf

p

First system of musical notation. It consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and contains a series of chords and eighth notes. The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. There are accents (>) over some notes in the top staff.

Second system of musical notation. It consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and contains a series of eighth notes with slurs. The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4. Dynamic markings of *p* and *mf* are present.

Third system of musical notation. It consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and contains a series of eighth notes with slurs. The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf sub.* are present.

Fourth system of musical notation. It consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and contains a series of eighth notes with slurs. The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf sub.* are present.

Fifth system of musical notation. It consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and contains a series of eighth notes with slurs. The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

First system of musical notation. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a slur. A dynamic marking *f* is present at the end of the system.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a slur. Dynamic markings include *p sub.* and *f*. A time signature change to 5/4 is indicated.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a slur. Dynamic marking *p sub.* is present. A time signature change to 4/4 is indicated. A note at the end of the system has a > accent. A text instruction "(keep pedal down)" with an arrow points to the right.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble clef contains a chordal texture with eighth notes. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes. A text instruction "(pedal still down)" with an arrow points to the right.

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble clef contains a chordal texture with eighth notes. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *cresc. poco a poco*, *(mp)*, and *(mf)*. A time signature change to 2/4 is indicated. A text instruction "(pedal still down)" with an arrow points to the right.

accel. to -----

f

(pedal still down) →

(*accel.*) ----- $\bullet = 120$

build to a roar *ff*

(pedal)

$\bullet = 84$ *sub. a tempo*

fff *fff* *sub. loco* *p sub.*

sub. loco

sva

sva

sva

sva

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

(l.h. *p* sempre)

lunga

n. *lunga*