Polymetric Puzzles 

Exercises and Short Pieces for Piano and Keyboard

Jeffrey S. Fineberg

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2014

Contents

List of music works: puzzles, exercises and pieces

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the many musicians, creative people and friends I have had the pleasure of working and playing with over the years.

Thank you to all the teachers I have studied with, from whom I have learned a great deal about disipline in order to work so many years on this project.

I wish to acknowledge Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) whose keyboard works have inspired me to realize the importance of utilizing both hands equally.

Finally, thank you to my family for their help throughout this project.

Thank you to my son Alex Fineberg for his expertise in developing software to generate polyrhythmic tables and his help using various software which was part of this project.

Thank you to my son Ian Fineberg for his expertise with proofreading and editing the text, his invaluable advice regarding the book cover and various logistics regarding the project for this book.

Thank you to my beautiful wife Kim Fineberg for an unbelievable amount of patience, coffee shop discussions about multistable images and polymeters, as well as helping me with the focus and direction needed to complete this work.

About the Author

Jeff Fineberg is a keyboardist with extensive experience playing synthesizers, piano, harpsichord, organ and computer-based virtual synthesizers *(such as Absynth, Reaktor, FM8, etc.)*. He also utilizes computer programming as a tool for music performance and composition. His music genre interests include progressive rock, classical, jazz-rock fusion, electronica and experimental approaches – among others.

He has played in a number of ensembles, focusing primarily on composition as well as improvisation. He also pursues solo efforts, exploring various interests such as improvisation, composition, recording, and experimenting with temporal aspects of music, such as polymeters and polyrhythms.

Jeff attended the University at Buffalo, in New York - earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in “Music and Media Studies” and a Master of Science degree in “Computer Science”.

In addition to his music interests, Jeff is an Information Technology Professional, working as a Programmer Analyst, Database Analyst and an Adjunct Lecturer at the University at Buffalo in New York. He has taught a wide range of Information Technology topics, such as Software Development, Database Systems and Systems Analysis.

Preface

I would like to explain what "Polymetric Puzzles" is about and the motivation for creating it. During much of my music experience, I have had a strong interest in the idea of experimenting with music from a perspective of interesting meters, as well as the use of polyrhythms. Music that contains odd meters and rhythms has always intrigued me. You can find examples of this in many forms of music. Examples include Popular Music, Dance Music, Progressive Rock, as well as Art Music (e.g. Impressionistic / Avant Garde), Jazz and and Jazz/Rock fusion.

I have always been fascinated with keyboard musicians who can play different meters and rhythms between two hands. This seemed like an interesting challenge to conquer. The main focus of the book is to give the reader opportunities to develop independence of the hands using (as I refer to them) "Polymetric Puzzles".

Much of the book contains a variety of puzzles that the keyboardist needs to solve. In addition, there are recommendations on how to play variations. There are also sections of the text with fully written out manuscript consisting of a variety of composed works based upon polymetric patterns.

My intention when developing this book was to illustrate the interesting aspects of both polymeters and polyrhythms so that the reader gains interest with these aspects of music, to increase independence of the hands, as well as experiment further beyond the text. I also hope the reader discovers these techniques to be useful tools for improvisation and composition.

How might you get the most out of this book? Feel free to initially skim the chapters to get an overall understanding of the concepts, as well as to consider where you may want to focus your interests. While some readers may choose to start playing examples, others may want to read some of the theory behind the exercises. To gain the most understanding of the concepts, I recommend that you read the background material in chapter 1. However if you intend to only play the fully notated pieces, this may or may not be necessary.

Throughout the book you will see footnotes with recommendations to perform "web searches". If you come across any term you are not familiar with, please feel free to search the web or refer to a music theory textbook for additional details.

Please refer to the website **www.polymetricpuzzles.com** for additional information and content regarding this book.