

Grasshopper's Wedding by Bartok **No 42 from *Gyermekeknek Sz42/BB 53***

What does the title mean?

This is a descriptive title about insect wedding celebration. This is heard in the music through - staggered bass which builds up towards celebratory flute-like melodies. The texture increases, with rhythmic momentum, in the middle section of the piece.

Keys:

This is in G mixolydian mode. Bars 28 to 36 is C major. In bars 37, this becomes G major. Bar 48 returns to G mixolydian.

Form:

This is almost in a palindromic structure - ABCBA. Sections A and B are in G mixolydian. Section C has the C major then G major keys, but similar melodic material.

Period/Style:

This is from the 20th century, with nationalistic inspiration. Bartok collected folk songs from Romania, Hungary and other eastern European countries, and incorporated these/used these as an influence for his compositions.

Style: pieces were predominantly rhythmic or textural over melodic, rhythmic complexity increased, new harmonies such as polytonality, polychords, atonality, serialism, (rejection of functional harmony), increased linear movement in texture, other influences such as jazz, pop music etc. Re rhythm, changing time signatures. Forms often through-composed or other formal structures such as palindromes.

About Bartok:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikrokosmos_\(Béla_Bartók\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikrokosmos_(Béla_Bartók))

Composer/Genres:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Béla_Bartók

Genres: piano music such as Mikrokosmos (six volumes of graded works), *Bluebeard's Castle* (opera), collections of folk music such as Romanian and Hungarian folk tunes, *The Miraculous Mandarin* (ballet), string quartets, concertos, *Cantata Profana* (choral work).

Notation:

Allegro vivace - this is the speed - fast and lively, spirited
pp - pianissimo - very soft
una corda - left pedal - mute. Literally means one string
ppp - piano pianissimo - very very soft
staccato - short and detached
tenuto - hold for full value, stress the note
slurs - play legato or smooth and well connected
marcato - well marked
tre corde - release the mute (left) pedal. Literally means 3 strings
sempre pedale - always use the damper pedal
ff - fortissimo - very loud
molto riten. - very held back (suddenly)
a tempo - return to original speed
accent - stress the note
acciacatura - grace note - play the note quickly before the main note
sempre f - always loud
mf subito - suddenly moderately loud
dim. poco a poco - decrease in volume little by little
pedale simile - pedal in the same way
senza pedale - without pedal
sempre dim. - always getting softer
triplets - three notes in the time of 2
possible - as possible
pppp - very very very soft
fermata - pause - hold the notes longer than written