

Capriccio in G by D Scarlatti (Trinity grade 5)

What key is this in?

G major

Key changes:

Bar 7 to D major (dominant)

Bar 39 to A minor (supertonic minor)

Bar 46 to G major (tonic key)

Bar 53 to G minor (parallel minor)

Bar 58 to G major (tonic key)

Musical style:

Capriccio is something that is capricious in nature or bold and fanciful. In music, pieces are usually short in form, use nimble finger work. This has a capricious style through its bold opening, quick and articulated rhythmical motives, upward leaps and fast tempo.

Musical period:

Baroque

This can be seen through the piece's structure (binary form), modulation to close keys, rhythmic pulse and momentum, use of ornamentation, articulation as shown in this edition (eg no slurs crossing the barline), strong cadence points, small range of notes (within 3 and 1/2 octaves), echo dynamics (eg bars 15 to 18), typical Baroque figuration (eg semiquaver movement), texture that is sometimes conversational and light.

Triads:

Key of G major

G major (eg bar 1 beat 1) - tonic chord

D major 7th (eg bar 1 beat 2) - dominant 7th chord

D major (eg bar 20 arpeggio) - dominant chord

There's really no example of the sub-dominant chord (C major) and the supertonic chord (A minor) is used as a substitution for this (eg final quaver bar 58)

Key of D major

D major (eg beat 1 bar 8) - tonic chord

A major 7th (eg bar 11 beat 1) - dominant 7th chord

G major (eg beat 1 bar 23) - sub-dominant chord

Key of A minor

A minor (eg bar 40 beat 1) - tonic chord

E major 7th (eg bar 41 beat 2) - dominant 7th chord

D minor (eg bar 40 last quaver) - subdominant chord

Musical structure:

This is binary form - Section A bars 1 to 32 and Section B bars 33 to the end.

Notation:

Allegro - fast and lively

f - forte - loud

slur - play smoothly

staccato - play short and detached

mordent - type of short trill (ornament)

p - piano - soft

sharp - raise the note a semitone

mp - mezzo piano - moderately soft

mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

crescendo - gradually getting louder
diminuendo - gradually getting softer
repeat sign - repeat the section