

Wistful Prelude - Russell-Smith

What does the title mean?

This is a descriptive title. To be wistful is to dream. A prelude is a short piece that traditionally comes before a more complex piece and usually only has one musical idea. However, modern preludes are simply short pieces.

What keys are used?

Bars 1 to 16 basically G major - some altered chords but no real key changes
Bar 17 - change to B minor (mediant minor)
Bar 21 - G major with a little D major (A major chord bar 22)
Bar 27 - Bb major
Bar 29 - Ab major
Bar 31 - Gb major
Bar 34 back to G major.

What is the structure/form?

Ternary with a coda

Section A to bar 16
Section B 17 to 32
Section A return
Coda from bar 41

What is the period/style?

20th century

Jazz-ballad style - use of pedal, slower tempo, lyrical song-like melody, extended jazz chords and harmony, use of rubato and tempo changes, chordal texture.

Notation:

Andante rubato - walking pace with freedom in tempo (rubato means robbed)

Metronome - between 72 and 80 crotchets per minute

C - common time - 4/4- simple quadruple time - 4 crotchet beats per bar

Mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

Slur - play legato

Pedal - damper pedal

Sharp - raise note a semitone

Flat - lower the note a semitone

Natural - cancel sharp or flat

Pedale simile - keep pedalling the same way

Rall - rallentando - gradually slowing down

A tempo - return to original speed

Tie - hold for combined note values

Dim. Diminuendo - gradually getting softer

P - piano - soft

Poco più mosso - a little more movement

Pp - pianissimo - very soft

Tenuto - hold for full value - accent/stress the note

Arpeggiato - roll the chord

F - forte - loud

Crescendo - gradually getting louder

Meno mosso - a little less movement

Subito - suddenly

Poco stringendo - a little pushed forward

Triplet - three notes in the time of two

Semplice - simply

Deliberamente - deliberately

Ritard. Ritardando - gradually slowing down

Ppp - very very very soft piano pianissimo