

*Elena Langer*

***L'armoire de Couperin***

*for harpsichord*

# L'armoire de Couperin

## I

Elena Langer

Dancing

$\text{♩} = 144$

Harpsichord

*elegant*

Hpsd.

9

rit.

Hpsd.

14

A tempo

playful

tremolo

Hpsd.

19

Hpsd.

23

*rhythmically free trills....sim.*

25

Hpsd.

trill

5

5

30

Hpsd.

slow spread

rit. .

34

Hpsd.

♩=144

42

Hpsd.

5

3

47

Hpsd.

7

53

Hpsd.

rit. .

59 **A tempo**

*lyrical*

*tr*

Hpsd.

62

*slow spread*

Hpsd.

66

*rit.*

Hpsd.

## II

**Subtly**

1  $\text{♩} = 63$

*p*

*mf*

Hpsd.

3

*mf*

*p*

Hpsd.

Hpsd.

6

*ff*  
*nervous*

*p* calm

poco a poco rit.

*cantabile*

Hpsd.

9

a tempo

*mp*

Hpsd.

11

*p*

Hpsd.

13

*mf*

14

Hpsd. *mp*

trills

17

Hpsd. *mf*

rit. A tempo

19

Hpsd. *mp*

21

Hpsd. *dim.*

22

Hpsd. *mf* *dolore*

legato

24

Hpsd.

3 3 3

rit.

26

Hpsd.

*f*

3

Più mosso

$\text{♩} = 88$

27

Hpsd.

*fff* *aggressive, marcato*

3

29

Hpsd.

rit.

tr

3 3 3

31 (chromatic clusters in the lowest register)

Hpsd.

*ff*

Detailed description: This system shows measures 31 and 32. The music is written for a grand piano (Hpsd.) in two staves, both in bass clef. Measure 31 contains a single chromatic cluster of notes in the lowest register, marked with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. A long horizontal line above the staves indicates a sustained resonance or cluster that continues through measure 32.

Tempo primo

Hpsd.

*p*

$\text{♩} = 60$

Detailed description: This system shows measures 32 and 33. The tempo is marked 'Tempo primo' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute ( $\text{♩} = 60$ ). The music is in two staves, both in treble clef. Measure 32 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and a sharp sign, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Hpsd.

*p* 2

Detailed description: This system shows measures 34 and 35. The music is in two staves, both in treble clef. Measure 34 continues the melodic and accompanimental patterns from the previous system. Measure 35 features a piano (*p*) dynamic and a second ending bracket labeled '2'.

Hpsd.

Detailed description: This system shows measures 36 and 37. The music is in two staves, both in treble clef. Measure 36 includes a fermata over a chord in the right hand. Measure 37 features a crescendo hairpin and a long horizontal line above the staves, similar to the one in measure 31.



Meno mosso

38

Hpsd.

40

Hpsd.

## Composer's Note

This harpsichord piece was written as a present to the Royal Academy of Music, where I spent a happy few years writing music and my PhD thesis and listening to concerts, and making many friends.

The piece is in two movements, both of which play with the idea of the Baroque idiom, or being part of an imaginary Baroque suite. The first one is delicate and dancing. As the second progresses, a Baroque tune gradually takes shape out of a twelve-tone row. Once the Baroque tune is complete, it dissolves again and disappears back into chromaticism.

While my piece hasn't got much in common with Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin*, the title reflects a similar idea of looking back on the Baroque, and paying homage to it, from a modern perspective.