

John Carbon

The Well-Blended Primer

musicalion

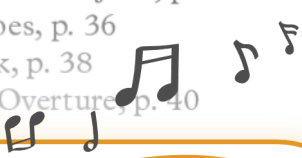
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for Piano

JCcollections

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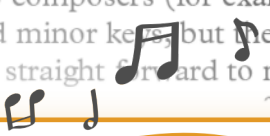
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Program Notes

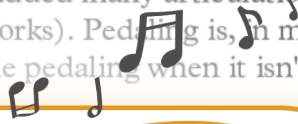
Composed in the Fall of 2011, *The Well-Blended Primer* is a set of 24 pieces for piano inspired by the idea of writing a piece in each major and minor key. Although much of my music hasn't been written with key signatures, I do associate keys with colors, and the title alludes to blended paint colors, which often have very specific titles, for example "desert sage," and the fact that the collection could be considered a "primer" for the pianist (with the intended pun regarding "primer coat" tying things together). There is also an allusion to J. S. Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, a two-volume collection of preludes and fugues written in every major and minor key. Other composers have approached writing a collection of pieces in all of the musical keys in various ways as well. Chopin, Hindemith and Shostakovich come to mind, and all were influences. There are some pieces in this collection that are more contrapuntal, and they might be considered fugues. Other pieces are more along the line of Romantic character pieces with whimsical titles. In some cases, the titles hint at allusions to other piano composers (for example *George Sand's Dream*). There is a piece in each of the major and minor keys, but the tonal relationships and use of harmonic language ranges from fairly straight forward to modal and sometimes highly chromatic. The key signatures are not. This is Book I of a planned two-volume set. The first volume is a "prelude-like" piece or a "more fugal" piece. The second volume will be a "prelude" and a "fugue" in each key. The collection does include degrees of contrapuntal intricacy. For example, several pieces weave in Bach's "name" in musical notes (in one of its two forms). The collection is dedicated to my father, a fine pianist, who I hope will enjoy playing these pieces.



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In some of the pieces I have not included slurs or other articulations with the idea that they could be realized in different ways by different pianists (in the same way Glenn Gould added many articulations in his interpretation of Bach's keyboard works). Pedaling is, in most cases, obvious. I have tried to indicate the pedaling when it isn't a given. In some cases markings are to suggest context will suggest. The piece lasts about one or second half of a group of pieces, grouped differently, work well together.



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The order of the pieces that I've chosen alternates "prelude-like" and "fugue-like" pieces and groups pieces together in alternating statements of major and minor. We move from E major to G minor (ascending by halfsteps, alternating prelude and fugue and major and minor), then after traversing a minor third we move up a major third to B minor, commencing with a prelude again and alternating major and minor descending to G sharp minor (down a minor third). Skipping A flat major (a fugue), we begin the third group with a prelude in CM (a major third higher) and ascend chromatically, alternating fugues and preludes and major and minor until reaching a fugue in E flat minor. The final piece is the fugue in A flat major, which is enharmonically a major third higher than the opening E major prelude that started the collection.

The Well-Blended Primer

1. Heather Bells

JOHN CARBON (1951-)

♩=76

With pastoral transparency

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in 6/8 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The right hand features a flowing melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano).

Measures 6-10. The melody continues with grace notes and slurs. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *pp* (pianissimo), and *p* (piano).

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Measures 11-15. The piece features a variety of textures, including chords and moving lines in both hands. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Measures 16-20. The music builds towards the end of the piece with more complex textures. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *f* (forte).

21

rit.

mf *mp* *p*

$\text{♩} = 68$
Poco meno mosso
Rich, warm

26

p *delicato* *mp*

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30

p *pp*

33

mp *mf*

35

$\text{♩} = 76$
Tempo primo

f *mf* *mp*

39

$\text{♩} = 68$
Poco meno mosso

mf *mp* *mf*

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42

p *rit.*

mp *p*

45

$\text{♩} = 76$
Tempo primo

pp *mp* *p*



rit.

8va



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Typ: Digitale Noten zum Download

Titel: [The Well-Blended Primer: Nr. 1 Heather Bells](#)

Komponist: [John Carbon](#)

Epoche: 20. Jahrhundert

Thema: .Ohne Thema

Reihe/Zyklus: Preludes and fugues

Schwierigkeit: Mittel bis schwer

Instrumentierung Gruppe: Tasteninstrumente Solo

Arrangement: Klavier

Instrumentierung: Klavier = Kl(1)