

Pavana



Teddy Cheng
December 2013
Hong Kong

(Cover art: Edward Austin Abbey—A Pavane, extract)

Notes on the *Pavana*

Outline

The pavana (often referred to as the pavane or the pavyn) is a solemn, stately dance in duple meter of Italian origin at the height of fashion during the Renaissance. Music written to this dance is often contrapuntal, and separated into two or three lyrical and chorale-like *strains*, which are either repeated or varied individually with ornaments, runs and the occasional canon as the dancing becomes more athletic. Many famous examples are written by the Renaissance composers Byrd, Gibbons and Dowland.

I composed my *Pavana* for a four-part viol consort without much change to the structure of its Renaissance counterparts, and packaged it in an Italian madrigal style popular late in the 16th century. However the composition itself is intended not to be danced to, but instead as a tribute to the great contrapuntists of the Renaissance and the Baroque; my piece is entirely contrapuntal and when varying the strains I ventured to use some more elaborate forms and textures, inspired by Bach's Goldberg Variations which I have been studying recently.

Analysis

The mor
and developed
progressions in
the piece, consi
followed by a var.

theme. In this variation each instrument follows a permutation matrix—a pattern on a grid used commonly in contrapuntal (often fugal) writing that is used to allocate subject entries systematically between different voices—and plays in turn four different melodic ideas: one being the main motif itself, and another being a variation of the second, now with faster, semiquaver runs, in accordance to the classical form of the pavane.

The second thematic strain starts with an unlikely triad on C, creating an unlikely major third relationship which is a favourite of the great Italian madrigalists. More explorations in harmony and chromatic chordal relationships follow, culminating with an English cadence on a Picardy third. I varied this by writing a tonal canon in fifths between the treble and tenor viols while accompanying it with a dotted figuration, commonly found in traditional pavanes, in the bass to draw a line between this variation and the fugal section to come and to create unity within the variation.

Although the fugue has never been united with the pavane and the Italian madrigal style, I found it rather apt and a good experiment anyways to represent it in my composition, as a sophisticated contrapuntal form whose greatest composers should require a tribute. To assimilate my final fugato section with the rest of the piece, I decided to construct it as a variation above the harmonies of the first strain immediately followed by the second. This gave me more room for fugal development while creating symmetry with the rest of the *Pavana*. I coupled the two thematic motifs together to form the subject and expositied it upwards from the bass viol, answering it tonally. To create tension in the development of the fugue, I used a range of fugal techniques including false entries of the subject and stretto. The subject is augmented as it is recapitulated at the end to wind the pace down.

A graphic featuring musical notation (a treble clef, a quarter note, and a half note) above a large, rounded orange rectangle. Inside the rectangle, the word "musicalion" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the word, the text "click for more" is written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font.

musicalion
click for more

thematic strain,
1 chord
d throughout
ound. This is
s line of the

Performance

It is ideal to perform the *Pavana* in its original scoring for two treble viols, one tenor viol and one bass viol, for a touch of “authenticity”. Like most real Renaissance instrumental pieces, however, instrumentation should be secondary to the music itself, and it is more than viable to transcribe it for any combination of instruments which satisfy the required range of the piece. As samples I have transcribed the *Pavana* up a perfect fourth for strings, and up a perfect fifth for woodwinds.

I have not ventured to include any performance guidelines; again as in Renaissance music, performers are free to interpret the *Pavana* as they wish, improvising their own ornaments and dynamics. However, appearances of the main motif (a minim, followed by two crotchets) should be stressed upon throughout the piece, and so should the fugal subject (including false entries of it) in the final section. Attention should be paid to the caesuras at the ends of the first variation and before the fugue in order to ensure that the sections of the piece are clearly defined.

A possible tempo for the entire piece is 100 beats per minute, which is approximately the tempo of the archetypal pavane. Alternatively, the variations, including the final fugue, may be played at 120 beats per minute for additional vigour. Also, each individual strain can optionally end with a *ritardando*; this should be outright *obbligato* at the end of the entire piece.



Pavana

Original version for viol consort

Teddy Cheng
December 2013
Hong Kong

Treble Viol

Treble Viol

Tenor Viol

Bass Viol

Tr.

Tr.

Te.

B.

musicalion
click for more

Tr.

Tr.

Te.

B.

Tr.  Tr.  Te.  B. 

Tr.  Tr.  Te.  B. 

Tr.  Tr.  Te.  B. 

Tr.  Tr.  Te.  B. 

musicalion
click for more

Tr. 36

Tr.

Te.

B.

Tr. 39

Tr.

Te.

B.

Tr. 42

Tr.

Te.

B.

Tr. 45

Tr.

Te.

B.

Soli Deo gloria

Pavana

Transcribed for string quartet

Teddy Cheng
December 2013
Hong Kong

Violin

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

musicalion
click for more

Vln.

Vln.

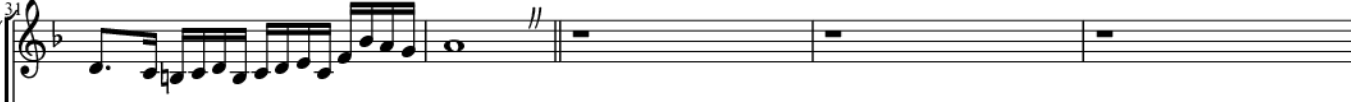
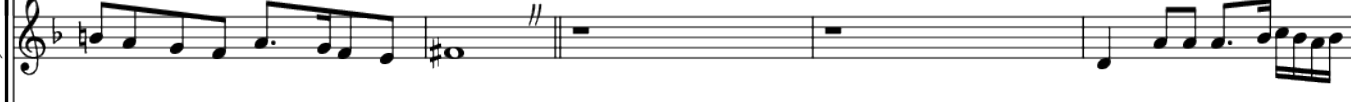
Vla.

Vlc.

Vln.  Vln.  Vla.  Vlc. 

Vln.  Vln.  Vla.  Vlc. 

Vln.    Vln.  Vla.  Vlc. 

Vln.  Vln.  Vla.  Vlc. 

Vln. ³⁶

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

This system contains measures 36, 37, and 38. The Violin I part (Vln. 1) starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a sharp sign in measure 37. The Violin II part (Vln. 2) follows a similar pattern. The Viola part (Vla.) is in the alto clef and plays a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) is in the bass clef and provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes.

Vln. ³⁹

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

This system contains measures 39, 40, and 41. The Violin I part (Vln. 1) continues the melodic development. The Violin II part (Vln. 2) has a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Viola part (Vla.) is in the alto clef and plays a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) is in the bass clef and provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes.

Vln. ⁴²

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

This system contains measures 42, 43, and 44. The Violin I part (Vln. 1) continues the melodic development. The Violin II part (Vln. 2) has a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Viola part (Vla.) is in the alto clef and plays a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) is in the bass clef and provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes.

Vln. ⁴⁵

Vln.

Vla.

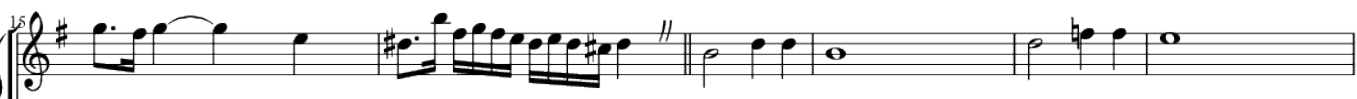
Vlc.

This system contains measures 45, 46, and 47. The Violin I part (Vln. 1) continues the melodic development. The Violin II part (Vln. 2) has a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Viola part (Vla.) is in the alto clef and plays a more active role with sixteenth-note patterns. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) is in the bass clef and provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes.

Soli Deo gloria

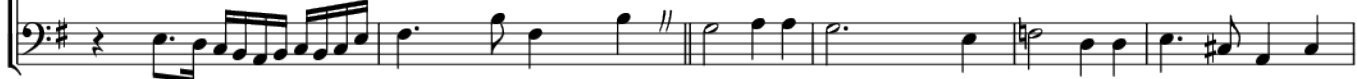
Teddy Cheng
December 2013
Hong Kong

Fl. Fl. A Cl. Bsn.

Fl. 

Fl. 

A Cl. 

Bsn. 

Fl. 

Fl. 

A Cl. 

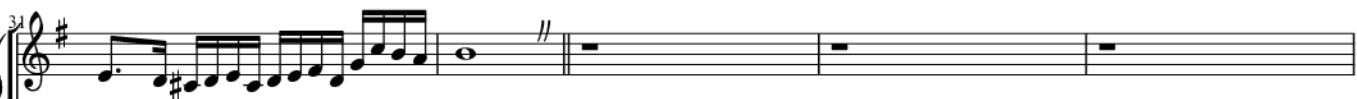
Bsn. 

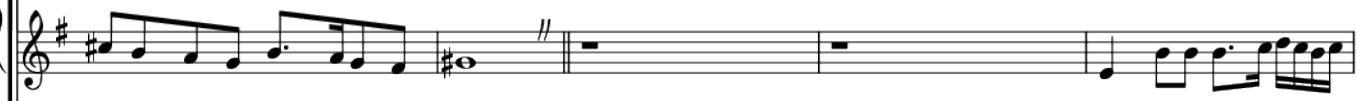
Fl. 

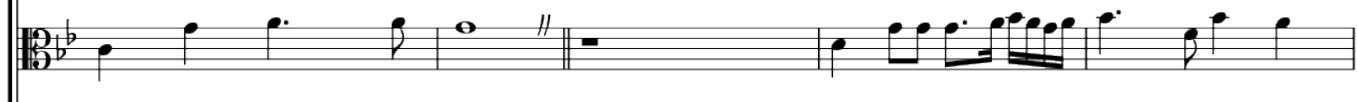
Fl. 

A Cl. 

Bsn. 

Fl. 

Fl. 

A Cl. 

Bsn. 

musicalion
click for more

Fl. ³⁶

Fl.

A Cl.

Bsn.

Fl. ³⁹

Fl.

A Cl.

Bsn.

Fl. ⁴²

Fl.

A Cl.

Bsn.

Fl. ⁴⁵

Fl.

A Cl.

Bsn.

Soli Deo gloria

Type: Sheet music

Título: [Pavana](#)

Compositor: [theodore chevron](#)

Época: Renacimiento

Tema: .Misceláneas

Categoría: Obras de cámara

Dificultad: Schwer

Instrumentación Grupo: Música de cámara mixta

Arrangement: Viola da Gamba+[Fl+Clar+Fg]+[Vl+Vla+Vc]

Instrumentación: Viola da Gamba (Gamba) = Vg(1), Clarinete = Clar(1),
Fagot = Fg(1), Flauta (traversa) = Fl(1), Viola = Vla(1), Violín = Vl(1),
Violoncello (Cello) = Vc(1)