

Kirsten Johnson: Sonata for Violin and Piano

In four movements, my Sonata for Violin and Piano opens with a declamatory movement in D minor. The thematic material is developed through several keys, and then a derivative motive is explored fugally. The inversion of the theme leads back to a restatement of the opening material in D major.

The second movement, Modal Jig, is in the style of an Irish jig. Opening in C Mixolydian, the jig moves through Dorian, Lydian, Phrygian, Aeolian and Locrian modes, culminating in a jaunty flourish.

A beautiful Ballad gives respite to the energy of the jig. Satie-like in character, the fluid movement between 3/4 and 4/4 creates undulating flow of hypnotic melody.

The last movement is a lively Rondo in 6/8. The first contrasting section is slower with lush melody over running piano accompaniment. The second contrasting section is a slow waltz in A minor.

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