

# Prelude Fugue & Riffs

*for cello and piano*

by

F L Dunkin Wedd

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# Prelude Fugue & Riffs (2002)

Programme note © F L Dunkin Wedd

When it was near to completion I reorganised this piece (originally in four movements) and borrowed the nicely subversive title from the *pièce de resistance* Bernstein wrote for Benny Goodman.

It opens in slow declamatory style; the piano is relegated to simple accompanying chords with the cello part giving its expressiveness full rein. When *Prelude* gives way to *Fugue* (not strictly a fugue!), the pianist's two hands and the 'cello are treated as three contrapuntal voices.

The offbeat character of the fugal theme anticipates the riffs that follow. In proper contrapuntal style we also hear it played upside down; backwards; upside down AND backwards - there's even stretto; but the musically academic mood is at most semi-serious. The pianist's two hands and the cello swap parts back and forth, and the harmony wanders about too. Contrasting with the counterpoint is a triplet figure on which piano and cello agree, with a Mozartian piano trill, which leads to the final section.

The first riff is an offbeat little number which would not be out of place on a Black Sabbath album; the piano plays electric guitar chops over it. A calmer section leads to another offbeat riff which changes the key. A third riff leads us back to riff one, and then we're into yet another mood, with the cello playing the first riff as a melody over semiquavers arpeggios that might be Bach - or might be Mike Oldfield; then the cello takes over the semiquavers and the piano gets the tune. They swap back, and come to a throw-away climax together.

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# Prelude

*Broadly*

$\text{♩} = 62$

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The image shows a page of sheet music for a three-part composition. It features eight staves of musical notation, each with a different clef (Treble, Bass, and Alto/Contra). The music is in 3/4 time. Various dynamics and performance markings are included, such as grace notes, slurs, and dynamic markings like 'mp' and 'f'. A large red watermark runs diagonally across the page, reading 'www.dunkinwedd.com'. The watermark also contains the text 'To remove this message, visit www.dunkinwedd.com'.

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The sheet music consists of ten staves of piano music. The first two staves are treble clef, the next two are bass clef, and the remaining six are treble clef. The music includes various dynamics such as *f*, *p*, *mp*, and *attacca*. Performance instructions like *3* (triplets) and *v* (vibrato) are also present. A red diagonal watermark reads "Composer has not been paid for this sheet music. To remove this message, visit [www.dunkinwedd.com](http://www.dunkinwedd.com)".

## Fugue



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This sheet music is for a piano work, consisting of five staves. The music begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The first staff contains a single note followed by a rest. The second staff features a sixteenth-note pattern. The third staff starts with a bass note, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The fourth staff continues the eighth-note pattern. The fifth staff begins with a bass note, followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. Dynamic markings include *mf* and *mp*. The music concludes with a final staff showing a bass line.

The sheet music consists of ten staves of musical notation for piano. The staves are arranged in two columns of five. The top staff is bass clef, followed by three treble clef staves, another bass clef staff, and four more treble clef staves. The bottom staff is bass clef. Various musical markings are present, including dynamics (mf, f, mp), key changes, and performance instructions like 'The Composer has not been paid for this sheet music. To remove this message, visit www.dunkinwedd.com.'.

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*(The music consists of six staves of three-part sheet music. The top staff is Bass, the middle staff is Treble, and the bottom staff is Bass. The music includes various dynamics like *mf*, *f*, and dynamic markings (3). The watermark is a large red diagonal text that spans most of the page.)*

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The music is composed for two voices (piano and basso continuo) and includes the following staves:

- Piano (Treble Clef):** Starts with a series of eighth-note chords. Measures 1-4: G major (G-B-D). Measures 5-8: C major (C-E-G).
- Basso Continuo (Bass Clef):** Measures 1-4: G major (G-B-D). Measures 5-8: C major (C-E-G).
- Piano (Treble Clef):** Measures 9-12: G major (G-B-D). Measures 13-16: C major (C-E-G).
- Basso Continuo (Bass Clef):** Measures 9-12: G major (G-B-D). Measures 13-16: C major (C-E-G).
- Piano (Treble Clef):** Measures 17-20: G major (G-B-D). Measures 21-24: C major (C-E-G).
- Basso Continuo (Bass Clef):** Measures 17-20: G major (G-B-D). Measures 21-24: C major (C-E-G).

**Performance Instructions:**

- Measure 1:** The piano part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 5:** The piano part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 9:** The piano part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 13:** The piano part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 17:** The piano part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 21:** The piano part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 25:** The basso continuo part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 29:** The basso continuo part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 33:** The basso continuo part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 37:** The basso continuo part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.
- Measure 41:** The basso continuo part begins with a series of eighth-note chords.

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## Riffs

*With energy* $\text{♩} = 104$ 

*f*

\* If 9th spread too wide, leave out upper Bs throughout

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LH RH

The music is composed for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano and alto clefs, and the piano part is in bass clef. The piano part includes dynamic markings such as *f* (fortissimo), *mp* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (pianissimo). The vocal parts feature eighth-note patterns and some grace notes. The piano part provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

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