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Gonçalo Gato

**Canti Firmi**



## **Instruments:**

Flute (+ alto flute)

Oboe

Clarinet (+ bass clarinet)

Percussion (triangle, wind chimes,  
suspended cymbal, bell plates,  
vibraphone, marimba, whip, snare  
drum, bass drum)

Piano

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

## **Programme notes:**

Canti firmi was born out of Gesualdo's madrigal 'Gioite voi col canto' (fifth book, I). I started by segmenting the madrigal in seven parts of different lengths. Each segment was then filtered in various ways to obtain 7 different canti firmi. These served as the basis for composing. The procedure of elaborating a cantus firmus is probably as old as polyphonic music itself and it never actually defined a style. Similarly, my 'transcription' of Gesualdo's madrigal is very far from the original. I think this (old) composing process made me feel a sort of primitive compositional impetus that was very inspiring.

Premiered by the Guildhall New Music Ensemble, conducted by James Weeks, on the 11th of July of 2014 at Silk Street Music Hall.



# Canti Firmi

Score in C

Gonçalo Gato  
(2014)

**Vivo, ♩ = 120**

Alto Flute: *ppp*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*  
Oboe: *pp*  
Clarinet in Bb: *pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *f*, *p*  
Percussion: Tam-tam *p*, arco Suspended Cymbal *mf*  
Piano: *ppp*  
Violin: *f*, *p*, pizz.  
Viola: *f*, *pp*, *mf*  
Violoncello: *ppp*, *f*, *ppp*

**6** To Fl.

A. Fl.: *p*  
Ob.: *pp*  
Cl.: *p*  
Perc.: Triangle *pp*, Suspended Cymbal *pp*  
Pno.: *f*  
Vln.: *f*  
Vla.: *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *pizz.*, *p*  
Vc.: *pp*, *gliss.*, *p*

**A**

14 Flute

Fl. *ff* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Ob. *ff* *f* *mp*

Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *f*

Perc. Wind Chimes Snare Drum *f* *pp* *p* rub

Pno. *f* *f* *p*

Vln. *pp* *arco* *sul pont.* *f*

Vla. *ff* *arco* *pp* *sul pont.* *f*

Vc. *ff* *arco, ord.* *p* *sul pont.* *mp*



19 **Meno mosso**, ♩ = 105

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *pp* *f* *pp*

Cl. *vivo* *p* *vivo* *p*

Pno. *vivo* *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*

Vln. *vivo* *p* *sul pont.*

Vla. *p* *sul pont.*

Vc. *sul pont.* *mp*

**B**

Alto Flute

To A. Fl.

21

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *mf* *pp*

Perc. S. Dr. Susp. Cymb. *f* *pp*

Pno. *f* *p* *f* *pp*

Vln. *ff* *pizz.* *mf* *ff* arco, ord. tallone

Vla. *p* *ff* *pizz.* *mf* *ff* arco, ord.

Vc. *pp* *ff* *ord.* *mf cantabile, legato*



26

A. Fl. *pp*

Ob. *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mf*

Perc. Tam-tam *ppp* *f-pp*

Pno. *ff* *f* *p* *pp*

Vln. *p* *pp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *mp* *pp legatiss.*



C

32 Molto sereno, ♩ = 80

A. Fl. *pp*

Ob.

Cl. *pp* 5 5 5 5 5 5

Perc. Wind Chimes *pp*

Pno. *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln. *p* *pp* *ppp*  
pizz. arco sul tasto, flautando

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *pp simile* *p*  
sul tasto, con sord. flautando 3 3 3 3

Vc. *ppp* *pp simile* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*  
sul tasto, flautando

A. Fl. 5 5 5 5 5 5

Cl. 5 5

Pno. 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vln. *pp*  
punta d'arco

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*  
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

39

A. Fl.

Cl.

Pno.

Vln. *ord., sul tasto, flautando*  
*pp legatiss.* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *mp* *pizz.* *3* *3* *3*

Vc. *pp* *p*



41

A. Fl.

Cl.

Pno.

Vln. *pp* *mf* *p* *pizz.*

Vla. *arco sul pont.* *pp*

Vc. *pp*

**D** Teatrale, ♩ = 140  
To Fl.

Musical score for measures 43-46. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for A. Fl., Ob., Cl., Perc., Pno., Vln., Vla., and Vc. The music is in 4/4 time and features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamics range from *pp* to *fff*. Performance instructions include *arco, ord.*, *senza sord.*, and *ord.*. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 46.

Musical score for measures 47-50. The score continues from the previous page and includes parts for A. Fl., Ob., Cl., Perc., Pno., Vln., Vla., and Vc. The music features prominent triplet patterns in the woodwinds and strings. Percussion includes Bell plates and Marimba. Dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. Performance instructions include *Flute*, *tr*, and *mf*. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 50.

Musical score for measures 51-74. Instruments include Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Maracas (Mar.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vla.).

Measures 51-54: Flute and Oboe play triplets. Clarinet has a trill. Maracas play a rhythmic pattern. Piano has a forte accompaniment. Violin and Viola play a melodic line with dynamics from *f* to *mp*.

Measures 55-74: Flute and Oboe continue with triplets. Clarinet has a trill. Maracas are silent. Piano has a forte accompaniment. Violin and Viola play a melodic line with dynamics from *mp* to *ff*.



Musical score for measures 55-74, continuing from the previous page. Instruments include Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

Measures 55-74: Flute and Oboe play triplets. Clarinet has a trill. Percussion plays a whip. Piano has a forte accompaniment. Violin and Viola play a melodic line with dynamics from *ff* to *pp*. Violoncello plays a bass line with dynamics from *ff* to *pp*.

Measures 75-78: Flute and Oboe continue with triplets. Clarinet has a trill. Percussion is silent. Piano has a forte accompaniment. Violin and Viola play a melodic line with dynamics from *pp* to *ff*. Violoncello plays a bass line with dynamics from *pp* to *ff*.

F

62

Fl. *f* *mp* *p*

Ob. *p* *tr* *mp* *tr*

Cl. *pp* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

Perc. Marimba *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Pno. *pp* *mf* *ff* *pp*

Vln. *f* *pp* *f* *p* *ord.* *sul pont.*

Vla. *f* *f* *f* *f* *sul pont.*

Vc. *f* *f* *f* *f* *sul pont.*

66

Fl. *ord.* *airy* *ff* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Ob. *p* *mp* *p*

Cl. *f* *f* *p* *f* *ppp* *p* *mf* *p*

Mar. *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Pno. *f* *p*

Vln. *energico* *f* *tallone molto energico* *ff* *f*

Vla. *f* *f* *ord.* *tr* *mp* *m.s.p.*

Vc. *f* *f* *ord.* *tr* *mp* *m.s.p.*

To A. Fl. Sereno, un poco lirico, ♩ = 80

70

Fl. *ff* *ppp* *p* dolce, cantabile

Ob. *mp* *ppp* *p* *mf*

Cl. 'wild' *f* *ff* *p* *p* To B. Cl.

Mar. *f* *ff* *p* *mf* *6* *mf*

Pno. *p* *f* *mp*

Vln. *ff* *pp* *ord.*

Vla. *fff* *ord.* *mp* *mp*

Vc. *fff* *mp* *mp* *f*

Vibr. motor on *mf*

77

Alto Flute

Fl. *p* *f* *pp*

Ob. *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *pp* *p* *f* *mp* *pp*

Vib. *mp*

Pno.

Vln. *f* *mp* *p* *ord.* *pp* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *mp* *p* *ord.* *f* *p* *con sord.* *pp* *legatiss.* *ppp* *3* *3* *sul tasto, flautando*

Vc. *p* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *gliss.*

83

A. Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

*pp* *legatiss.* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

col legno batt.

ord. sul tasto

pizz.

sul tasto, flautando

*pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *p*



86

To Fl.

To Cl.

Teatrale, ♩ = 140

A. Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

*mf* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

col legno batt.

senza sord.

*pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

H

91 Flute (airy)

Ob.

Cl. Clarinet in B $\flat$

Perc. Bass Drum

Pno.

Vln. ord. *fff* 3 pizz. *p*

Vla. ord., m.s.p. *fff* m.s.p. tr. pizz. *p*

Vc. *fff* pizz. *p*

*p* *f* *pp* *ff* *pp*

93

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

*f* *ff* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

arco, sul pont. *p* *ord.*

arco



**I**  
Meno mosso, ♩ = 120

97

Fl. *ff* *p* *f*

Ob. *ff* multiphonic *p* 3

Cl. *ff* *p* 3

Perc. Snare Drum *f* *f*

Pno. *f* Ped.

Vln. *ff* *p* pizz. arco *p* *pizz.*

Vla. ord. *p* sul G

Vc. tallone *ff* *p* *fff* arco *fff* 3 *p* pizz.



102

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p* *mp* *p* *ff*

Perc. Snare Drum Bass Drum *ff*

Pno.

Vln. *p* *pp* arco *pp* 3

Vla. *p* *pp* arco *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp* 3 *pp* arco *pp*