

Michael Kaulkin

American Standard

for clarinet in B \flat and piano

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“...a valuable addition to the contemporary repertoire.”
—*Clarinet and Saxophone* magazine, United Kingdom

Michael Kaulkin’s **American Standard** (9 minutes) is a single-movement showpiece that balances lyrical intensity with mischievous virtuosity. The clarinet line demands agility, dramatic expression, and theatrical flair, while the piano writing provides both sparkling dialogue and driving momentum.

A favorite in recital programs since its premiere in 1993, *American Standard* was later recorded on the UK label Clarinet Classics (*Time Pieces: 60 Years of American Music*) by clarinetist Peter Furniss and pianist David Leihar Jones. Since then, the piece has gained a reputation as a rewarding concert work for advanced players — equally effective as a stand-alone highlight or centerpiece.

PROGRAM NOTE

Originally written for Peter Furniss and pianist Gareth Hunt in 1993, this single-movement work has an overtly theatrical aspect, harkening back to the composer’s spiritual home in musical theater. A dialogue is established between two contrasting but thematically related sections. The slow, lyrical, aching theme heard at the outset becomes interspersed with a second that is more mischievous, even grotesque in character. Constant development of this faster material provides a means of pushing forward with considerable virtuosity to the composition’s rather resigned conclusion, where both themes (and moods) are finally juxtaposed.

—Richard Dudas

Listen to the entire work at www.swirlymusic.com/american-standard.



Are you performing this piece? Let the composer know: michael.kaulkin@gmail.com

for Peter Furniss and Gareth Hunt

American Standard

Michael Kaulkin

Semplice (♩=72)

The musical score is arranged for Clarinet in Bb and Piano. It consists of four systems of music, each with a Clarinet (Cl.) part and a Piano (Pno.) part. The tempo is marked as Semplice (♩=72). The key signature is one flat (Bb). The time signature changes from 5/4 to 4/4 in the first system, and then to 3/4 and 4/4 in the subsequent systems. The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp*, *p*, *mp*, and *f*. A large watermark 'FOR PERSAL USE ONLY' is visible across the score.

21 *rall.* **più mosso** (♩=80)

Cl. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

25

Cl. *mf* *mp* *f*

Pno. *f*

30

Cl.

Pno. *mp* *pp*

35 **A** **Grazioso** (♩=92)

Cl. *p*

Pno. *p espr.*

39

Cl.

mf *mp*

Pno.

mf *mp*

43

Cl.

mf *f*

Poco rall. A tempo

Pno.

mf *f*

45

Cl.

Pno.

47

Cl.

8va

3 *3* *3* *3*

Pno.

49

Cl.

Pno.

p sub.

51

Cl.

Pno.

f

54

Cl.

Pno.

ff

8va

58

Cl.

Pno.

mp *mp* *mf* *mf* *f*

61

Cl. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *f* *sim.*

64

Cl.

Pno.

67

Cl.

Pno. *incalzando*

70

Cl. *ff* *p* *pp*

Pno. *ff* *mp* *p*

molto rit. *A tempo* *rit.* *A tempo* *rit.*

A tempo

73

Cl.

mf

Pno.

mf pesante

76

Cl.

Pno.

79

Cl.

ff

Pno.

ff *f*

81

poco rubato

f *mp* *p*

B molto rubato

Pno.

mf *p*

ancora più rubato

85

Cl.

Pno.

90

Cl.

Pno.

rit. Tempo primo (♩=72)

mp

95

Cl.

Pno.

(molto) ff mp

ff mp

99

Cl.

Pno.

accel.

102

Cl.

Pno.

105

Cl.

Pno.

ff

ff

109

Cl.

Pno.

p

p

114

Cl.

Pno.

p

p

accel.

118

Cl.

Pno.

122

♩=120

Cl.

Pno.

mf

125

molto rit.

C Burlando (♩=100)

Cl.

Pno.

f

129

Cl.

Pno.

132

Cl.

Pno.

sfz

f

135

Cl.

Pno.

138

Cl.

Pno.

140

Cl.

Pno.

mp subito

142

Cl.

Pno.

mf

incalzando

145

Cl.

Pno.

f

148

Cl.

Pno.

mp

dim.

151

Cl.

Pno.

pp

154

Cl.

pp

8^{va}

Pno.

157

Cl.

mp

(8)

loco

mp

Pno.

160

Cl.

poco allargando

Pno.

163

Largamente (♩.=60)

Cl.

f

5

8^{va}

Pno.

166

Cl.

Pno.

168

Cl.

Pno.

170

poco allargando

D Alla marcia (♩=100)

Cl.

Pno.

mp

173

Cl.

Pno.

mf

175

Cl.

mp *mf*

Pno.

178 *poco allargando* *f* *più mosso* (♩=112) *mf*

Pno.

180 *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Pno.

183 *f* *mf*

Pno.

185

Cl. *f*

Pno. *f*

187

Cl. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

ancora più mosso (♩=112)

190

Cl. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

193

Cl. *mp subito*

Pno. *mp subito*

195

Cl.

Pno.

f

197

Cl.

Pno.

rall. Rubato

199

Cl.

Pno.

mp *p*

A tempo

202

Cl.

Pno.

ff *niente* *p*

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