

Décor

for Toy Piano

Willlyn Whiting

2021

PROGRAM NOTE

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the fourth semester of my doctoral degree in composition, overworked by a transition to online classes, and quarantining in my studio apartment, I decided to buy a toy piano. I found comfort in its cheapness, its limitations, and how it managed to destroy the pretensions of western classical instruments. I wrote many small pieces which failed to capture my impressions of this instrument, until the summer of 2022, when I collated a number of these sketches into a piece. I titled the piece *Décor* because my toy piano is a piece of decoration in my home.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Regarding the toy piano

It should have at least the range of C4 – C6.

It should be cheap (I bought my \$40 instrument online).

The instrument should be played sitting on the floor.

Regarding the interpretation

Grace-note sixteenths should be at least [sixteenth = 160].

Where there are fermatas the duration of each measure can vary.

Do not break or roll chords.

Décor

Toy Piano

Willyn Whiting

Fast, but with liberal pauses ♩ = 160

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the bass clef, and the bottom is the alto clef. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Fast, but with liberal pauses' with a quarter note equal to 160. The dynamic is marked *mf*. The first staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and some beamed eighth notes. The second and third staves provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

A

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the bass clef, and the bottom is the alto clef. The music continues in the same key and tempo. The dynamic is marked *mp*. The first staff features a more melodic line with some rests, while the second and third staves continue the harmonic accompaniment.