

DUNCAN, Laurie Matthew: *Sonata for Trombone and Piano*

[DUNCAN, Laurie Matthew](#) (b. 1956) – M – Region: Manitoba (B); Thailand (R).

Sonata for Trombone and Piano (2011) Duration: 12:30.

Availability: [Pine Grove Music](#) PG-12, © 2012 (CMC Call #: MI 6213 D9115so).

Copy Quality: computer.

Range / Clefs / Tessitura:

Level of Difficulty: 5.

Notation: standard.



Special Techniques: grace notes.

Equipment/Mutes: cup mute; F-attachment required.

Overview:

Movements	Duration	Tempo	Meter	Rhythms
I. Vivace	3:45	$\text{♩} = 208$	4/4, 2/4, 3/4	8 th
II. Lento	4:30	$\text{♩} = 63$	3/4	8 th
III. Animato	4:15	$\text{♩} = 84$	2/2, 3/2, 1/2	8 th

Technical Characteristics: This sonata features the trombone's diverse range of expression, with lyricism and lightness being especially predominant. Several fast passages demand good flexibility and nimble slide technique (see Figure 1). The high end of the tessitura is frequently used, often very softly (see Figure 2), requiring a relaxed approach with delicate articulations. Agility in the low register is necessary for a few passages, especially the opening of the 3rd movement (see Figure 3). Any ensemble challenges are easily worked out in rehearsal.

Figure 1. Duncan: *Sonata*, 1st movement, measures 1-15.

Figure 2. Duncan: *Sonata*, 2nd movement, measures 35-41.

Figure 3. Duncan: *Sonata*, 3rd movement, measures 1-10.

Musical Characteristics: The 1st movement, a “light study on the interval of the fourth”, begins playfully with staccato lines in the trombone over a dry piano accompaniment. A soft, cantabile style follows, during which the colour of the cup-muted trombone is briefly explored. This gentle atmosphere is maintained through the 2nd movement, with the trombone cup-muted throughout. The 3rd movement begins explosively, with the trombone in its low register. Various textures are explored, including a fugue leading to an intense climax. The work ends softly with muted “horn calls” in F-Major.

Pedagogical/Performance Value: As one of only a very few sonatas for trombone and piano at the advanced undergraduate level, this fine work is an important addition to the repertoire. Students will find the work helpful in developing a relaxed approach to the instrument, and professionals will find it a nice addition to any recital program.

Supplementary Information:

Dedication: Dedicated to Keith Jones.

Premiere: May 24, 2012, Walter Hall, University of Toronto, ON; Dale Sorensen, trombone; Vanessa May-lok Lee, piano.

Score Sample: The entire score can be downloaded from the [CMC](#).