

Josef Gabriel

# RHEINBERGER

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## Orgelsonate Nr. 7 in f-Moll

Organ sonata in f minor  
op. 127

herausgegeben von / edited by  
Martin Weyer

Einzelausgabe aus Band 38 der Gesamtausgabe (Orgelsonaten)  
Separate edition from volume 38 of the Complete Works (Organ Sonatas)

Sämtliche Werke · Complete Works



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Carus 50.127

# Inhalt

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Das Werk der vorliegenden Ausgabe ist Band 38 der Rheinberger-Gesamtausgabe entnommen. Für das Vorwort und den Kritischen Bericht verweisen wir auf die Gesamtausgabe.

Rheinbergers Orgelmusik erscheint in der Gesamtausgabe in drei Bänden und einem Supplementband:  
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Band 40: Orgelmusik III (Kleinere Orgelwerke) (Carus 50.240)  
Supplementband 3: Kleinere Orgelwerke ohne Opuszahl (Auswahl) (Carus 50.288)

The work of this edition is taken from Vol. 38 of the Complete Edition of the Works of Josef Gabriel Rheinberger. For the Foreword and the Critical Report please refer to the Complete Edition.

Rheinberger's organ music is published in the Complete Edition in three volumes and one supplementary volume:  
Vol. 38: Organ music I (Organ sonatas 1–10) (Carus 50.238)  
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Vol. 40: Organ music III (Smaller organ works) (Carus 50.240)  
Supplementary volume 3: Smaller organ works without opus numbers (a selection) (Carus 50.288)

Aufführungsdauer / Duration: ca. 21 min.  
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## Vorwort

Josef Gabriel Rheinbergers Orgelsonaten Nr. 6 bis 10 entstanden in den Jahren 1880 bis 1886, in einer Schaffenszeit, da sich Rheinberger besonders intensiv der Orgel zuwandte: Die Sonaten 6–8 wurden als jährlicher Beitrag zur Gattung 1880, 1881 und 1882 komponiert; die Sonaten 9–15 folgten, ebenfalls in jährlichem Turnus, 1885–1891, und die dazwischenliegende Zäsur wurde 1884 durch das 1. Orgelkonzert op. 137 gewichtig genug überbrückt. Ebenfalls seit der 6. Sonate hatte sich der Grundriss geweitet. Dimension und Habitus der Sonaten tendierten nun zum Sinfonischen; Rheinberger hielt zwar am Terminus „Sonate“ fest, nahm aber eine kompositorische Entwicklung, die dem Weg seiner französischen Zeitgenossen von der Orgelsonate zur „Orgelsinfonie“ durchaus parallel lief.

Die 7. Sonate (f-Moll op. 127) wurde 1881 komponiert.<sup>1</sup> Der 1. Satz ist undatiert, der 2. trägt das Datum des 6., der 3. das des 10. Oktober. Rheinberger stellte anschließend nicht nur die übliche vierhändige Fassung für Klavier her, sondern arrangierte später auch den 2. Satz für Oboe und Orgel (datiert vom 17.2.1889); Fragment blieb eine Bearbeitung „nach op. 127“ für Violine und Orgel in D-Dur.

Die Sonate wurde dem Münchner Domkapellmeister Carl Greith gewidmet. Greith, geboren am 21.2.1828 zu Aarau, war als Schüler von Ett und Herzog (bei dem auch Rheinberger Orgel studiert hatte) einer spezifisch Münchner Lokaltradition verbunden; sein Weg führte ihn über St. Gallen, Frankfurt, Feldkirch, Schwytz und wieder St. Gallen 1871 nach München, wo er 1877 Domkapellmeister wurde; er starb am 21.11.1887.

Der erfahrene Interpret H. Grace kommentiert: „Das Preludio ist ein gutes Beispiel für Rheinbergers Erfindungskraft. Es ist mit nicht weniger als fünf Themen gebaut, alle ziemlich ebenbürtig; schon zwei von ihnen böten genügend Material zur Durchführung eines längeren Satzes. Aber die Orgel wird so leicht monoton, dass ausgedehnte Durchführungen rasch langweilig werden können, und Rheinberger scheint sich vor dieser Gefahr gehütet zu haben... Die Hauptthemengruppe besteht aus 3 langen Themen, alle in f-Moll... Das eigentliche Seitenthema ist das ruhige Thema, das zunächst in C-Dur erscheint [T. 60 ff.]... Wenn das Gesamtergebnis weniger monoton ausfällt als erwartet, so wegen des stark ausgeprägten und kontrastierenden Charakters der Themen... Der ganze Satz hat Würde, manchmal geradezu Vornehmheit, verbunden mit einer Idiomatik, die eben nach der Orgel wie nach keinem anderen Instrument verlangt.“<sup>2</sup>

Der 2. Satz, als Idylle beginnend und endend, bietet im Mittelteil etliche technische Schwierigkeiten: Rheinberger verlangt hier von seinen Interpreten eben jene souveräne pianistische Technik, die er selbst besaß; die Zweiunddreißigstel erfordern geläufige Mühelosigkeit, um nicht die Atmosphäre des Satzes zu zerstören: die Tempoangabe von Viertel = 80 im Erstdruck hielt Grace mit sicherem Instinkt für „manifest nonsense“: Ein Versehen des Druckers, nicht des Komponisten! Im Autograph steht Achtel = 80.

Die vier Akkorde, mit denen der erste Satz schließt, umrahmen auch den zweiten und dritten. Die Fuge mit „einem der besten unter Rheinbergers zahlreichen gediegenen Themen“ (Grace) zeigt exemplarisch, wie der Komponist großen Vorbildern verpflichtet ist, ohne sie zu kopieren: Die Nähe zu Bachs F-Dur-Fuge BWV 540 ist unverkennbar, vor allem, wenn ein 2. Thema (T. 49 ff.) den Weg zur Doppelfuge freizugeben scheint. Aber eine Kombination beider Themen findet nicht statt: Die zu erwartende kontrapunktische Verdichtung erfolgt durch Engführungen des 1. Themas. Die Coda, üppig harmonisiert, endet schließlich mit jenem Vierton-Motiv, mit dem das Finale begonnen hatte, und ist zugleich eine Reminiszenz an den 1. und 2. Satz.

Marburg, im Frühjahr 1990

Martin Weyer

(aus dem Vorwort zu Band 38 der Rheinberger-Gesamtausgabe)

<sup>1</sup> Zu den Entstehungsdaten und allen Quellen siehe den Kritischen Bericht in Band 38 der Rheinberger-Gesamtausgabe (Carus 50.238).

<sup>2</sup> Harvey Grace, *The Organ Works of Rheinberger*, London 1925, S. 26. Übersetzung vom Verfasser.

## Foreword

The Organ Sonatas Nos. 6 to 10 were written between the years 1880–1886, during a creative period when Rheinberger devoted his attention with particular intensity to the organ; Sonatas Nos. 6–8 were composed as annual contributions to the organ repertoire in 1880; 1881 und 1882 respectively; and Sonatas Nos. 9–15 followed, also at yearly intervals, in 1885–1891. The interval between these two groups of sonatas was filled imposingly enough by the First Organ Concerto, op. 137, of 1884. Since the composition of the Sixth Sonata the scale of the works had grown. The dimensions and characteristics of the sonatas now tended towards the symphonic; Rheinberger kept the title “sonata,” but his development as a composer led him along a road parallel to that which led his French contemporaries from the organ sonata to the “organ symphony.”

The Seventh Sonata (in F minor, op. 127) was composed in 1881.<sup>1</sup> The first movement is undated; the second bears the date 6th October, and the third 10th October. Rheinberger did not only make the customary piano duet version, later he arranged the second movement for oboe and organ (dated 17.2.1889); another arrangement, “after Op. 127” in D major for violin and organ remained unfinished.

The Sonata was dedicated to the musical director of Munich Cathedral, Carl Greith. Born at Aargau on 21.2.1828, Greith, as a pupil of Ett and Herzog (who had also been Rheinberger’s organ teacher), was schooled in a local tradition specific to Munich. His career took him, by way of St. Gallen, Frankfurt, Feldkirch, Schwytz, and again St. Gallen, in 1871 to Munich, where he became musical director of the Cathedral in 1877; he died on 21.11.1887.

The experienced interpreter H. Grace commented: “The Preludio” is a good example of Rheinberger’s inventive power. It is based on no fewer than five subjects, almost equally important; any two of them would afford sufficient material for development into a lengthy movement. But the organ so easily becomes monotonous that extended development is apt to lead to tediousness, and Rheinberger seems to have been aware of this danger... The first -subject group consists of three longish themes, all in F minor; the second and third are repeated on pages 7 and 8, and the first and second on pages 10 and 11, and in each case the key is still F minor. The real subject is the quiet theme that appears first in C major, and reappears on page 9 in F. The remaining material is a lengthy episode of a sequential character, which still hangs round nearly-related keys; if the total result is less monotonous than we expect it to be, it is because of the strongly-marked and contrasted character of the subjects... The whole movement is dignified – even noble at times, with an idiom that suggests the organ and nothing else.”<sup>2</sup>

The second movement, which begins and ends as an idyll, presents certain technical difficulties in its middle section; here Rheinberger demands of the performer the sovereign keyboard

technique which he himself possessed, because the demi-semi-quavers have to be played with easy fluency if the atmosphere of the movement is not to be destroyed. Grace described the tempo indication crotchet = 80 in the first edition with instinctive certainty as “manifest nonsense.” He was right, but the mistake was that of the publisher, not the composer! The autograph gives quaver = 80.

The four chords which conclude the first movement also frame the second and begin the third. The Fugue, with “one of the best of Rheinberger’s many fine themes” (Grace), provides an excellent example of how he could draw upon great models without copying them; a debt to Bach’s F major Fugue BWV 540 is unmistakable, especially when a second subject (bar 49 et. seq.) seems to lead to a double fugue. However, the two subjects are not in fact combined: the expected contrapuntal complexity results from strettos of the first subject. The Coda, richly harmonised, finally ends with the four-note motive with which the Finale had begun, and which also recalls the first and second movements.

Marburg, spring 1990

Martin Weyer

Translation: John Coombs

(from the Foreword to Volume 38 of the Complete Edition of the Works of Rheinberger)

<sup>1</sup> Information about the dates and sources of this Sonata can be found in Volume 38 of the Rheinberger Complete Edition (Carus 50.238).

<sup>2</sup> Harvey Grace, *The Organ Works of Rheinberger*, London, 1925, p. 26.

# Sonate Nr. 7 in f-Moll

## I. Praeludium

**Allegro non troppo** M.M. ♩ = 108

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger op. 127 (1881)

Manual.

Pedal.

Einz. ... und 38 der Rheinberger-Gesamtausgabe. / *Separate edition taken from v...*

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22

*p*

29

*poco rit.*

*p* *ff*

35

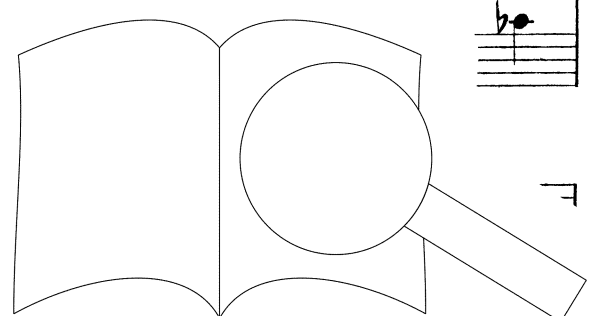
*a tempo*

40

*f*

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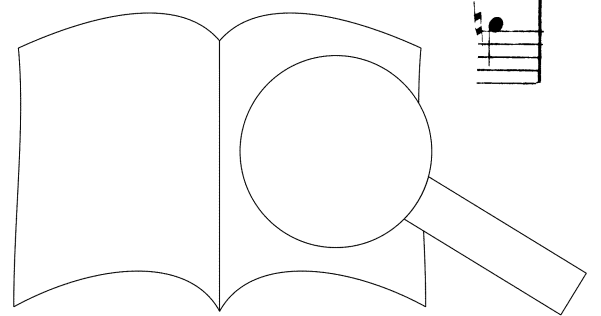
45

49

53

57

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62

68

*p*

This system contains measures 62 through 68. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The right hand has a complex melodic line with many beamed notes and slurs. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of measure 68.

69

75

This system contains measures 69 through 75. The musical notation continues with similar complexity in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand.

76

82

This system contains measures 76 through 82. The right hand part shows a continuation of the intricate melodic patterns.

83

87

This system contains measures 83 through 87. The musical texture remains consistent with the previous systems.

88

94

This system contains measures 88 through 94. The right hand part concludes with a melodic phrase. A large, stylized graphic of an open book is overlaid on the bottom right of this system.

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93

98

103

108

113

*a tempo*

118

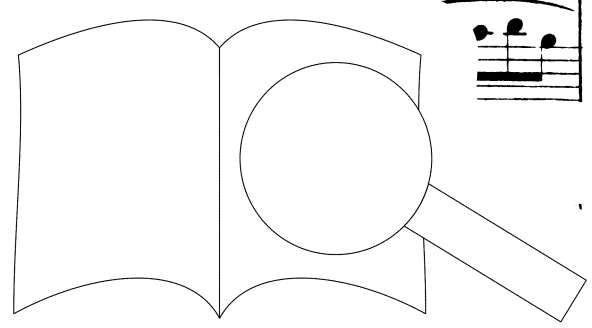
123

127

131

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135

*p dolce*

142

*mf*

149

156

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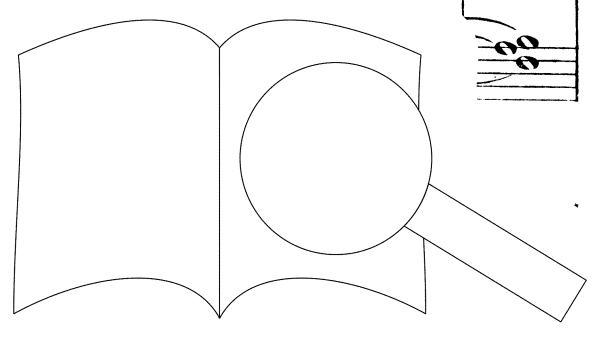
161 *poco rit* - - *a tempo*  
*ff*  
*ff*

166

171

175

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183

188

193

199

Grave.

II.

Andante ♩ = 80 I. Man.

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37

Musical score for measures 37-44. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music is in a minor key and features complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed notes and slurs.

45

Musical score for measures 45-53. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and slurs.

54

*poco animato*

Musical score for measures 54-61. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The tempo marking *poco animato* is present. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and slurs.

62

Musical score for measures 62-67. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and slurs.

68

Musical score for measures 68-75. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and slurs.

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72

Musical score for measures 72-75. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music is in a minor key and features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes.

76

Musical score for measures 76-79. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and includes some slurs.

80

Musical score for measures 80-83. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and includes some slurs.

84

Musical score for measures 84-87. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff below. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and includes some slurs.

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88

Musical score for measures 88-91. The score is written for piano and features a complex texture with multiple voices in both the treble and bass staves. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The music includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

92

Musical score for measures 92-95. The score continues the complex texture from the previous system. It features a mix of melodic lines and harmonic accompaniment. The notation includes slurs and dynamic markings.

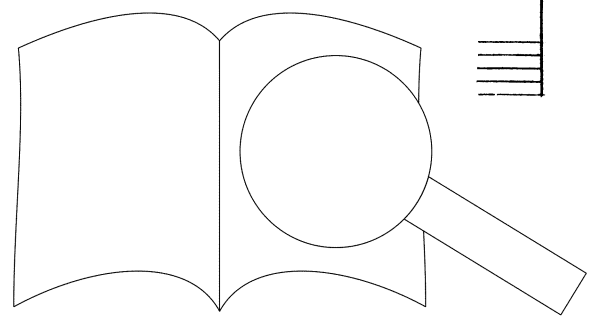
96

Musical score for measures 96-99. The score shows further development of the musical themes. The bass line becomes more active with sixteenth-note patterns. The treble staff continues with melodic fragments.

100

Musical score for measures 100-103. The score concludes the section with a final cadence. The bass line has a prominent role in the final measures. The treble staff has a melodic line that resolves.

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104

Musical score for measures 104-107. The top system contains a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The middle system contains a single bass clef staff. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed notes and rests.

108

Musical score for measures 108-111. The top system contains a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The middle system contains a single bass clef staff. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns.

112

Musical score for measures 112-115. The top system contains a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The middle system contains a single bass clef staff. A sixteenth-note figure is marked with a '6'. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns.

116

Musical score for measures 116-119. The top system contains a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The middle system contains a single bass clef staff. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns.

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122

*mf* *p* *pp*

II. Man.

132

*p*

I. Man.

II

142

I. Man.

151

II. Man.

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# III. Finale

Vivo  $\text{♩} = 112$

Grave

Cadenza  
sempre *f*

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The image shows a page of musical notation for the 'III. Finale' section. It consists of four systems of music, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system is marked 'Grave' and includes a 'Cadenza sempre f' section. The tempo is indicated as 'Vivo' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. A large, diagonal watermark 'PROBEPARTITUR' is overlaid across the page, along with the text 'Ausgabequalität gegenüber Original evtl. gemindert • Evaluation Copy - Quality may be reduced • Carus-Verlag'. At the bottom right, there is a large, stylized graphic of an open book.

*poco a poco rite - - - nu - - - to - - -*

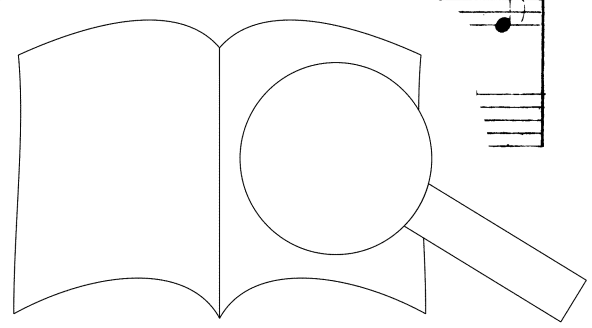
11

13 *più moderato.*

16

19

**FUGA.**  
21 **Moderato**



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27

Musical notation for measures 27-31, featuring a treble and bass staff with various notes and rests.

32

Musical notation for measures 32-36, featuring a treble and bass staff with various notes and rests.

37

Musical notation for measures 37-41, featuring a treble and bass staff with various notes and rests.

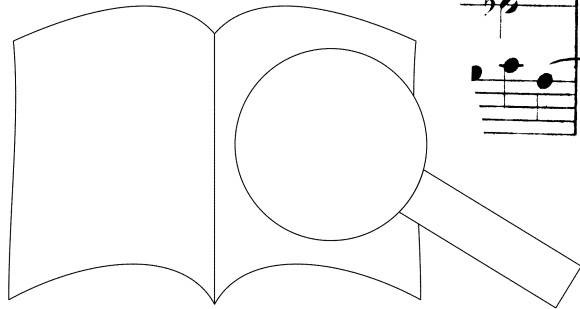
42

Musical notation for measures 42-46, featuring a treble and bass staff with various notes and rests.

47

Musical notation for measures 47-51, featuring a treble and bass staff with various notes and rests.

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52

Musical score for measures 52-56. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

57

Musical score for measures 57-62. The right hand continues the melodic development with more complex rhythmic patterns, and the left hand maintains a steady accompaniment.

63

Musical score for measures 63-67. The right hand has a more active melodic line, and the left hand accompaniment becomes more intricate.

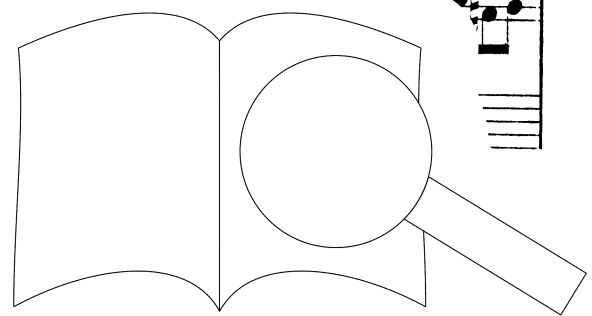
68 *poco ritard.* - - *a tempo*

Musical score for measures 68-72. The tempo marking changes from *poco ritard.* to *a tempo*. The right hand features a melodic line with some rests, and the left hand accompaniment is more active.

73

Musical score for measures 73-77. The right hand has a melodic line with some rests, and the left hand accompaniment is more active.

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77

81

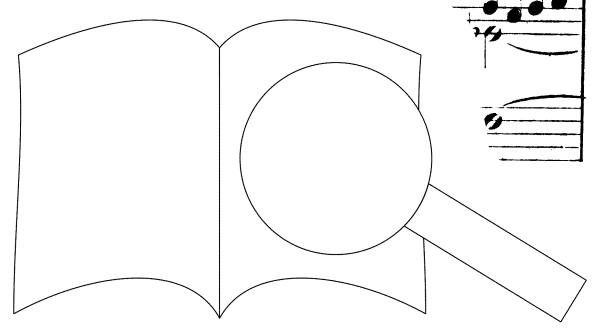
85

89

93

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97

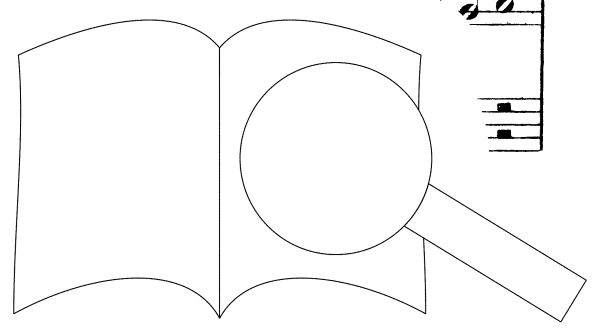
101

105

109

113

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118

Musical score for measures 118-122. The score is written for piano and features a treble and bass clef. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines in the right hand, and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

123

Musical score for measures 123-127. The score continues with similar piano accompaniment. The right hand features more complex chordal textures and melodic fragments. The left hand provides a steady bass accompaniment.

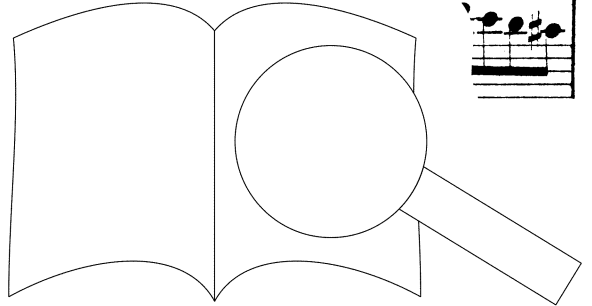
128

Musical score for measures 128-131. The piano accompaniment continues, showing a progression of chords and a consistent bass line. The notation includes various note values and rests.

132

Musical score for measures 132-135. The score concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass note in the left hand. The piece ends with a fermata over the final notes.

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136 *poco rit.* - - - *a tempo*

141

145

149 **Grave.**

