Fast Music

for Solo Cello

Don Freund
(1994)

Don Freund's *Fast Music* was composed to exploit the cello wizardry of Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi. It is approximately 9 minutes of solo cello virtuosity which flies, propels, drives, flashes, chugs, blurs, and rocks. These different kinds of fastness appear and reappear in a sort of exponential rondo: the opening fastness — fleet, breezy, and amiable — returns often enough to spread a benign whimsy over the proceedings, but not without being challenged by other fastnesses which are rougher, threatening, rambunctious, even frenzied. Close to the end, a theme with an almost Straussian heroic character appears to rescue the piece from its more diabolical tendencies, and usher in the final fling of the opening fastness.

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