Percussive Notes

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Nessun Popolo Oppresso 10

Luigi Morleo

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Morleo Editore

This is a very challenging solo, written for four timpani. The solo is unique, because it is not written with themes, but instead is constructed over a steady heartbeat of sixteenth notes throughout much of the composition. The piece starts with a duet between the right and left hands, playing unison F's on drums III and IV. The drums move chromatically to contrasting pitches, which creates a dissonance of sound and color. As other drums are added, the challenges increase as pedal changes are notated for each timpani. Some of the challenges are performing triplet patterns and other rhythmic figures with one hand while playing steady sixteenth notes with the other. In addition, there are notations for playing in various areas of the head, the rim and even on the kettle itself. The rhythmic patterns increase in difficulty as the work develops.

The notation is written on a double staff, which is really helpful in identifying the division between the hands. It is also very clearly presented, with the editor employing Roman numerals to identify the drums to play on, and the use of letters to identify the area for striking the notes. The solo is dedicated to Jonathan Haas, and will be a unique solo for the advanced recital program.

—George Frock