

Benjamin Williams
Jacob's Ladder
for
Organ

Jacob's Ladder

for
Organ

Duration: 8 min.

Shortly after moving to Mississippi, one of my colleagues at Mississippi College, organist Bob Knupp, planned to give a recital of organ music by composers he personally knew. Knowing that I am also an organist, he stopped by my office to see what music of mine he might be able to use. Much to my embarrassment, I didn't have much to show him! While I had written some functional organ music primarily for my own use at church, I didn't have anything along the lines of a concert piece for solo organ (he ended up playing a piece of mine for violin and organ with his wife). Lest I miss his interest in performing my music, he recounted this all in his recital program with the note "(Hint to Ben—write a solo organ piece.)"!

As it turned out, I wrote *Jacob's Ladder* for myself first, to use as a sort of 'test' piece. *Exaltate in aeternum*, for Bob, came shortly thereafter. I had a great deal of fun with this piece and couldn't wait to get working on another for someone I know has a great deal of talent. The first movement of *Jacob's Ladder* contrasts a stridently wandering melody with a solid, low hymn-like chorale. The hymn-like texture continues into the second movement with a soft melody that grows louder and louder until the rousing and rejoicing final movement, which harkens back to the themes from both of the first two movements.

Jacob's Ladder

Benjamin Williams
(b. 1982)

I.

Moderato ♩ = 96

Solo

Organ

mf
Great (8',4')

8

16

Jacob's Ladder

29

Great

mp

Musical score for measures 29-45. The piece is in 3/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and slurs, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

46

Solo

Musical score for measures 46-59. The right hand has a more active, melodic role, including a solo section with sixteenth-note runs. The left hand continues with harmonic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* appears towards the end of the section.

60

Great

mp

Musical score for measures 60-73. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The left hand provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

Jacob's Ladder

74

Solo

3/4

82

3/4

88

mf

3/4

Jacob's Ladder

95

Musical score for measures 95-101. The score is written for piano with three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4. The music features intricate sixteenth-note patterns in the Treble staff and block chords in the Bass and lower Bass staves.

102

Musical score for measures 102-109. The score continues with the same three-staff piano arrangement. The time signature changes to 3/4 and then back to 2/4. The Treble staff continues with sixteenth-note runs, while the Bass and lower Bass staves provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

111

Musical score for measures 111-118. The score continues with the same three-staff piano arrangement. The key signature changes to two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The Treble staff features sixteenth-note patterns and rests. The Bass and lower Bass staves have block chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present. The word "Great" is written above the Treble staff in the final measures.