

# Three Psychodramas

for piano

2010

Austin Shadduck



## Three Psychodramas

Premiered December 14, 2010 by Sunny Knable  
LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, CUNY

### Program Notes

*Three Psychodramas* is a set of piano miniatures that portrays increasingly aggressive musical scenes. Each movement alludes to a different personality disorder, and the pitch material is based on a twelve-tone row that becomes less and less recognizable as the composition progresses. The first movement systematically unfolds the row, obsessively hitting every pitch within multiple octaves. The second movement relates to paranoia and deals with dyads that look like thirds on paper, though many sound like major seconds. The final movement is faster and violent with a few moments of relief.

This piece is about slowly losing control and slipping into chaos and despair. It's also about giving up control, as one must often do in a large city, such as New York, where millions of people are trying to have it their way. And, of course, it's about personality disorders, which we've only begun to diagnose and treat in this modern world.

*Recordings and performance materials are available from the composer.*

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# Three Psychodramas

## I. Octave Compulsive

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**Misterioso**  $\text{♩} = 69$   
depress keys for exact durations

Piano

*p delicato*

*mp* *mf agitato*

*f* *p*

*rit.*

*f pesante*

*ff* *p* *f* *sfz*

## II. Suspicious Thirds

$\text{♩} = 168-174$

*mf legato* *f* *p*

5 *mp* *mf*

10 (4+3) *f* *p* *ff*

15 *rall.* *a tempo* *quasi rto.*  
*mp* *descrec. poco a poco*

20 *morendo* *ppp*

### III. Scherzophrenia

♩ = 120

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Tempo markings include *molto rit.* (molto ritardando) and *a tempo*. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. There are also performance markings like *leg.* (legato) and asterisks (\*). The piece features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. The first system starts with a *f* dynamic. The second system has a *ff* dynamic followed by a *p* dynamic and then *mp*. The third system has a *f* dynamic. The fourth system has a *ff* dynamic. The fifth system starts with a *f* dynamic, changes to *mp*, and then back to *f*. The piece concludes with a *f* dynamic in a 3/4 time signature.

III. Scherzophrenia

16 *mf*

Musical notation for measures 16-18. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff features chords with arpeggiated patterns. Bass staff features chords with arpeggiated patterns. Dynamic marking *mf*.

19 *fff*

Musical notation for measures 19-21. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has chords, bass staff has a melodic line. Dynamic marking *fff*.

**Poco meno mosso**

*Leg.*

*rit.*

\*

22 *p* *mp legato* *mf*

Musical notation for measures 22-25. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a melodic line, bass staff has chords. Dynamic markings *p*, *mp legato*, *mf*.

*Leg. ad lib.*

**Tempo I**

26 *f* *p* *mp*

Musical notation for measures 26-28. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a melodic line, bass staff has chords. Dynamic markings *f*, *p*, *mp*.

29 *mf* *f* *fff*

Musical notation for measures 29-31. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a melodic line, bass staff has chords. Dynamic markings *mf*, *f*, *fff*.

*quasi Leg.*

Dramatically pound keyboard for final chord.  
Cover as many notes as possible.  
Hold until notes fade.