

Chapter 1 : Canon in D ("Pachelbel's Canon"): Piano Sheet: Johann Pachelbel

Pachelbel's Canon in D is the name commonly given to a canon by the German Baroque composer, Johann Pachelbel, in his Canon and Gigue for 3 violins and basso continuo (German: Kanon und Gigue für 3 Violinen mit Generalbass) (PWC 37, T. , PC).

If you missed the first analysis video of Clair de Lune , definitely check it out – it was a ton of fun to make! Different versions Before we get into the backstory and analysis, I just wanted to share a couple versions of Canon in D for you to listen to – a traditional orchestral version, and an arranged piano version. Backstory So I want to touch on a couple tidbits we talked about in the Canon in D piano tutorial video – namely, the backstory basics. It was originally written for 3 violins and a basso continuo. Think of the basso continuo as the background part. Analysis of Canon in D: So this song is in the key of D major. Now, what is a canon? So in Canon in D, the three violins are all playing imitation parts. The first violin part is the trendsetter, and then the second violin part plays the exact same thing but a couple bars delayed, and then the third violin copies the first violin, but at a delay of 4 bars. This creates a really neat overlapping effect. So throughout this piece, the first violin is always playing the leader role, and the other two violins are copying those notes 2 and 4 bars delayed, respectively. So the origin story of Canon in D is unknown. Unfortunately, as is bound to happen with the passage of time, Baroque music became unfashionable in the Classical era, but later on, in the Romantic era 19th Century , Baroque music re-surged in popularity. Jean-Francois Paillard published a recording of it in , which triggered many imitators, until it became one of the most well-known Classical songs by the 80s. Ground Bass The first thing I want to talk about is a ground bass. This is a term used for patterns in music, and Canon in D has one of the most famous patterns. Otherwise, this part is usually played by a bass-type section, or in the Baroque period, a basso continuo. So remember, the tonic is the main key of a song. If a song is in the key of D, the tonic is a D. At the end of the pattern we move to the dominant, which is the 5th note in a key. So after our ground bass intro, you get the first violin entering the picture, starting the tune. A couple bars later, the second violin repeats. Then, the third violin repeats. And this happens every time the first violin plays a part. You can see the blue highlighter marks a new part, which is echoed again, and then a new part in purple, and so on, for the duration of the song. This was kind of like a Baroque version of 12 bar blues – it just means you have this repetitive ground bass or chord pattern that the melody instruments jam over and create variations on. So Pachelbel blended these two styles – Canon and Chaconne – into one piece. Canon in D in pop Since Canon in D has resurged in pop music over the last few decades, I thought it would be neat to look at some of the pop songs that use the same ground bass as Canon in D. Clair de Lune is all about subtlety and obscurity, whereas Canon in D is obvious and direct. Both are good in their own respects. And because of the simplicity of this piece, analysis is very simple as well.

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Chapter 8 : Pachelbel's Canon - Wikipedia

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Canon in D Very good piece for sight reading depends on your level of performance as to how quickly one can master; but it's a very comforting selection 99 / people found this review helpful.