## Echo Point

for harpsichord
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## Performance notes:

Echo Point may be performed on any harpsichord, but works best if a rich sound can be provided for the higher octaves, with not too much strength in the lower octaves. Arpeggiated patterns and similar phenomena should be transparent, shimmering entities, not forceful clusters of sound.

The pace of the piece changes with the music, and the overall impression must be that of a fluid, ever changing tempo, the music punctuated with dramatic pauses, unpredictable sudden bursts of activity, penultimate sounds of a phrase lingering before the last, and similar features. Only two tempo indications are used, however. These are:

- Sections marked Allegro, which are played generally in moderate to fast tempi $(. \approx 120)$ with ad lib acceleration and/or deceleration; and
- Sections marked Adagio, which are slow to very slow ( $\downarrow \approx 60$ ), with ad lib deceleration, caesuras, fermatas, and perhaps an occasional fast burst for some passage.

The longer the marked section, the less the indication applies to it as a whole - e.g. in an Allegro section that lasts more than 2 or 3 bars some sounds may linger for a long time, some pauses may be extended, and deceleration may eventually bring the piece to a very slow tempo. An example, taken from the opening of the second section of the piece (bars 23 to 34 ), is given below:


In the score, this entire passage is simply marked Allegro, and the above example is simply one way to interpret it. Shorter stretches with a single tempo indication are easier to mange. For example, the opening bars may be played with the metronome set to dotted quarter note at 80 , possibly with a slight ritardando for the second triplet of bar 6 . In the slow bars that follow, tempo may be set to quarter note at 60 .

The sounds of Echo Point enjoy the same flexibility as its tempi, largely because any note may be held for a longer amount of time than is indicated. Some of the many ways the opening bars may be played are illustrated below. On instruments with more than one manual and/or different stops this rule may be used in various ways, e.g. using extraneous objects to hold certain notes for a long time, obtaining different colors at the same time, etc.


Generally, arpeggiated chords and aggregates are indicated as such, but it is permissible to apply a stray arpeggio or two in other instances. Please note that arpeggiation is expressly forbidden for the entire duration of the last section of the piece.

## Echo Point

(Aldrovanda vesiculosa)





2
${ }_{43}$ Adagio
Allegro



Adagio






