

Stylistic and interpretative features in Lowell Liebermann's sonata for flute and piano, op. 23

Denisa IFRIM¹

Abstract: *A prolific composer, averaging six consistent works a year, Liebermann became one of the most performed Americans of his generation. His music has been played by a number of notable musicians, including pianist Stephen Hough, who was entrusted with the first auditions (and later a Grammy-nominated recording) of piano concertos. Although criticized by some as too conservative, while others consider his music too dissonant or too cerebral, Liebermann remains a highly successful contemporary composer.*

The Sonata for flute and piano, op. 23 composed in 1987 has known a great success both from the public and from the press since its premiere. The composition style of this sonata can be divided into two main directions, based on contrasting characteristics: the nocturnal character (which characterizes the first movement of the sonata) and the diurnal character, more percussive and more vigorous (which defines the second part).

Keywords: *flute and piano, Lowell Liebermann, sonata, F. Schubert;*

Introduction

The Sonata for Flute and Piano, Op. 23 (1987) was a huge hit with both the audience and the press right from the start, getting rave reviews in the music papers of the time: "carefully crafted,"² "a joy for performers,"³ and "a tour de force for both performers."⁴

In the summer of 1987, Scott Nickrenz, director of chamber music at the Spoleto Festival⁵, and his wife, flutist Paula Robison,⁶ attended the premiere of Lowell Liebermann's piano solo work Variations on a Theme by Anton Bruckner, performed by Scott Nickrenz's daughter Erika. They were delighted with the piece and decided to commission a work for flute and piano to be performed at the festival the following summer by Paula Robison and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

1. Source of inspiration

In an interview with Paula Robison, Liebermann compares the atmosphere at the beginning of his Sonata with Schubert's *Nacht und Träume* D. 827 (1825), based on lyrics by Matthäus von Collin.⁷ As a sincere admirer of Schubert, he attempts a contemporary dramatization of

¹ Faculty of Music, Transylvania University, Brasov, denisa.ifrim@unitbv.ro

² "Carefully worked". 1988. *The Evening Post*, May 23, 1988.

³ "A joy for the performers". 1988. *The American Theatre*, May 23, 1988.

⁴ Jack Dressler. 1988. "Liebermann's New Flute Sonata: a Tour De Force for Musicians". In *The News and Courier*, May 23, 1988.

⁵ The Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, is one of the most important performing arts festivals in the US. Founded in 1977 by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Gian Carlo Menotti, the festival is intended to be a counterpart to the one in Spoleto, Italy (Festival dei Due Mondi, Festival of the Two Worlds).

⁶ Flutist Paula Robison (born June 8, 1941 in Nashville), to whom the piece is dedicated, studied at the Juilliard School with Julius Baker and, privately, with Marcel Moyse. Recognized as one of the world's leading flutists, Paula Robison was the first American to win first prize at the Geneva International Competition. She has recorded for Arabesque, Music Masters, New World Records, Sony Classical, Vanguard, and Omega. She has contributed significantly to the enrichment of the flute repertoire by commissioning new works composed between 1980 and 2000 by contemporary composers, including Toru Takemitsu (*I Hear the Water Dreaming*, 1987, for solo flute) and Oliver Knussen (*Masks*, Op. 3 for solo flute and glass chimes 'ad lib.', 1969).

⁷ Paula Robison. 2007. "Interview with Lowell Liebermann". *New York Times*, December 14, 2007.

Matthäus von Collin's poem *Nacht und Träume*, based on the Austrian composer's conceptual plan. Indeed, the similarities are evident: the syntax, tempo, dynamics, and tonal centers are almost identical:

Parameters	<i>Sonata for flute and piano, Op. 23 by L. Liebermann</i>	<i>Nacht und Träume by F. Schubert</i>
Syntax	Homophony	Homophony
Rhythm	Ostinato formulas	Sixteenth note pattern
Tempo	<i>Lento poco rubato</i>	<i>Sehr langsam</i>
Dynamics	<i>pp</i>	<i>pp</i>
Tonal centers	<i>D# d#, G/g, B/b</i>	<i>B, G, G</i>

Table 1. *Similarities between Liebermann's Sonata for Flute and Piano, Op. 23 and Schubert's Nacht und Träume*

Schubert's lied (in B flat major, with a modulation to G major in the middle section) contains only two tempo and dynamic markings – *Sehr langsam* and *pp* – which remain unchanged throughout the piece. Schubert's opus – a meditation on the night and dreams, on the sorrow brought by the sun that dispels the mystery of the night, taking dreams with it – could be the unspoken program of the American composer's Sonata. The romantic spirit of the text probably inspired Liebermann's nocturnal atmosphere at the beginning of the Sonata:

<i>Heil'ge Nacht, du sinkest nieder; Nieder wallen auch die Träume Wie dein Mondlicht durch die Räume, Durch der Menschen, stille Brust.</i>	Holy night, you deepen; And dreams descend Like the light of your moon through the rooms, Through the peaceful hearts of men.
<i>Die belauschen sie mit Lust; Rufen, wenn der Tag erwacht: Kehre wieder, heil'ge Nacht! Holde Träume, kehret wieder!</i>	I love the night; And I cry out when the day creeps in: Come back, holy night! Dear dreams, return!

Table 2. *Nacht und Träume (1825), by Matthäus von Collin.*

The melodic profile of *Nacht und Träume* is undulating, with a gradual descending-ascending movement suggesting a serene, dreamy mood, a gentle rocking, which allows the voice to achieve a subtle melodic design. The leaps, with rhetorical functions, mostly descending, are placed towards the end of the phrases. The intervallic and rhythmic variety in measures 16-29 dramatically illustrates the climax of the piece, marked by the solo voice's imploration: "Come back, holy night! Sweet dreams, come back!" The music correlates with the lyrics through the repetitive rhythmic formulas intended for the two couplets and the progressive decrescendo dynamics intended for the endings of phrases, periods, or sections.

2. First movement, *Lento con rubato*

2.1 Exhibition

Liebermann's mastery in constructing thematic material is beyond question. For him, however, the creation of melodies is an additional means of establishing organization, unity of movement, and contrast between movements. His innate talent for melodic construction can be

demonstrated right from the first movement of the Sonata, with Theme I, which is a "remarkable melody of intense lyricism."⁸

Theme I in Lento, played by the flute (*dolcissimo possibile*), is a "haunting" melody⁹, accompanied transparently by a piano ostinato:



Fig. 1. Lowell Liebermann, Sonata, First part, measures 1-4.

The length of the melody, combined with the pianissimo dynamic level and large interval jumps, requires the flutist to have remarkable breath control and musical maturity, aspects that will be discussed in the chapter Suggestions for interpretation.

However, in this debut of the Sonata, we can talk about the charm of impossibilities invoked by Messiaen in *Technique de mon langage musical*, the strange magic of the impossibility of transposing the seven modes indefinitely. The modes with limited transposition are found simultaneously in the atmosphere of several tonalities (in the sense that they have several possible sound centers), without entering the sphere of polytonality, the composer being free to give predominance to one of the sound centers or to leave the tonal impression undeclared.¹⁰

The eight measures of theme I create the ambience of a D#-D# (major-minor) center, shaken by a brief incursion into the subdominant G# (a typical modal functional relationship, measure 4) and a return to the D#-D# center.

We could consider that Liebermann adopts Messiaen's modes to suggest an undefined, dreamlike atmosphere. For example, in the first four measures, by combining the sounds of the piano and flute, we obtain an incomplete mode III (T-St-St), first in the fourth transposition (measures 1-3): D# - E# - F# - G - [A] - A# - B - [C# - D] - D#, then in the second transposition, from C# (measure 4): [C#] - D# - E - [F - G] - G# - [A] - B - C - [C#]. But we could just as well consider that it resorts to extended tonality, with the use of altered steps: a minor D# in which the lowered fourth step (measures 1-3) creates the sensation of a major-minor ambiguity (D#-F#, D#-F#/G); and in the fourth measure, the major chord on the lowered second degree (mi) is "colored" similarly, by the appearance of natural C, as a counterpoint to B

The theme also contains the seeds of future thematic material in all its articulations: themes, bridges, thematic developments, and even quotations from other composers.

In the second exposition of theme I (bars 10-17), we note the presence of pedal notes on the piano in the low register, which amplify the atmosphere of mystery and clearly have an acoustic effect, resonating and aureolating the solo instrument.

The first theme in the secondary group (B1), first presented by the piano (bars 17-20), continues the idea of the accompanied melodic line used in theme I; the accompaniment is inspired by the rhythmic-melodic formulas in bars 6-8. The tempo is slightly faster (*Un poco più mosso*) and the writing, although still transparent, becomes more dynamic, especially starting in measure 21, with the reprise of the theme by the flute.

⁸ "big, lyrically intense song". *The Florida Times* (March 29, 1988), article *Flutist's unmistakable enthusiasm for music becomes infectious*, by Jonathan Rodgers.

⁹ *Ibidem*.

¹⁰ Olivier Messiaen. 1944. *Technique de mon langage musical*, Paris, Alphonse Leduc, , vol. I, p. 58.

In the first phrase of theme II, the new elements are minimal: a pair of sixteenth notes placed on the second half of beat 1, a quasi-Lydian sound in measure 18, the same major-minor alternation, now even more insistent. The sound material sometimes seems to outline a Messiaen mode (m. 17-18, Messiaen mode II, second transposition, with the center on G: C#-D-E-[F]-G-A-B-Bb-B-C#), but at other times it belongs more to a traditional mode: an incomplete Lydian scale in measure 19, centered on Db (Db-Eb-F-G-Bb-B), an Aeolian scale in measure 20, centered on G# (G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E-F#). It is interesting that the sonic poles are sometimes located at an augmented fourth (G-D, m.17-19), an interval that would mark the music of the 20th century.

In the second phrase, apart from the flute apogias, the piano arpeggios – a romantic-style accompaniment – bring a new element: the major-minor chord, which will also become an emblem of 20th-century music. We find at the beginning of each measure, in the left hand (m. 21-26), a technique that will be amplified in the development. We thus notice an allusion to the third act of *Tristan und Isolde*, *Isolde Liebestod*, the insinuation of the famous Wagnerian theme being evident in measures 22-23:



Fig. 2. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata, First movement, phrase 2 from B₁, measures 21-23*.

TRISTAN UND ISOLDE.
Isolde's Liebestod.
Mild und leise wie er lächelt.

Mort d'Iseult. Doux et calme comme il sourit.	Isolde's Love-death. Light and softly, how he smiles.
--	--

Molto moderato cominciare. **Richard Wagner.**

Fig. 3. Richard Wagner, *Tristan und Isolde, Isolde Liebestod, measures 3-6*.

The next theme (B₂, measure 30) is an example of compositional skill in creating contrasts. A dramatic shift in dynamics from pianissimo to fortissimo, together with sudden excursions into extreme registers, produces an outburst of frenzy so intense that it functions as a new theme.¹¹

¹¹ Richard S. Ginell. 1991. "Music Reviews: Flutist Robison at Bing Theater". *Los Angeles Times*.

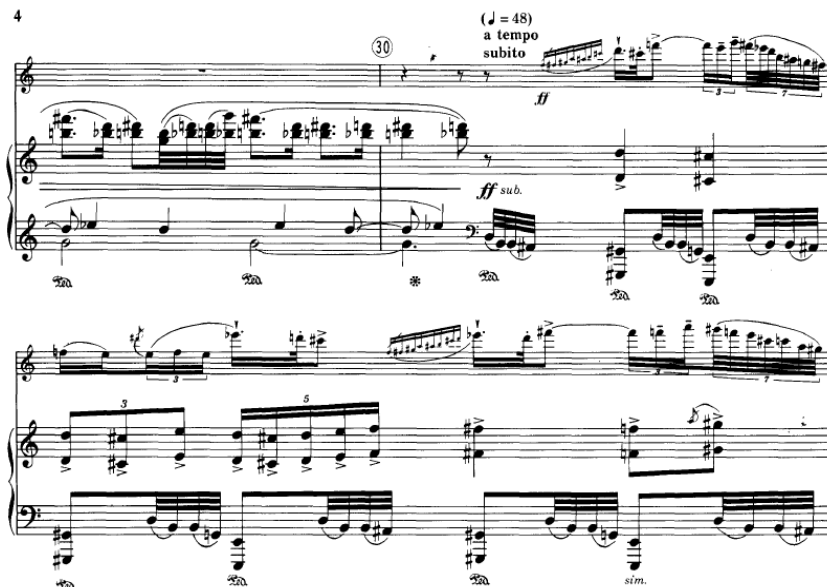


Fig. 4. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata*, first movement, measures 30-31.

After this frenzy, theme B3 restores calm with an ostinato oscillating between major and minor, centered on "B."

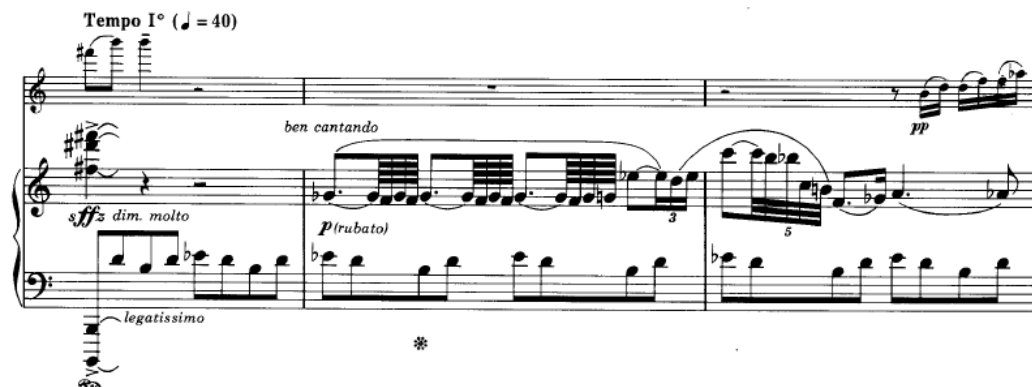


Fig. 5. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata*, first movement, B3, measures 37-38.

The rhythmic idea in this theme, of eighth notes (with or without a dot) followed by groups of thirty-seconds and sixty-fourth notes, will be taken up by the composer in other works for flute, for example in the *Sonata for Flute and Guitar*, Op. 25:

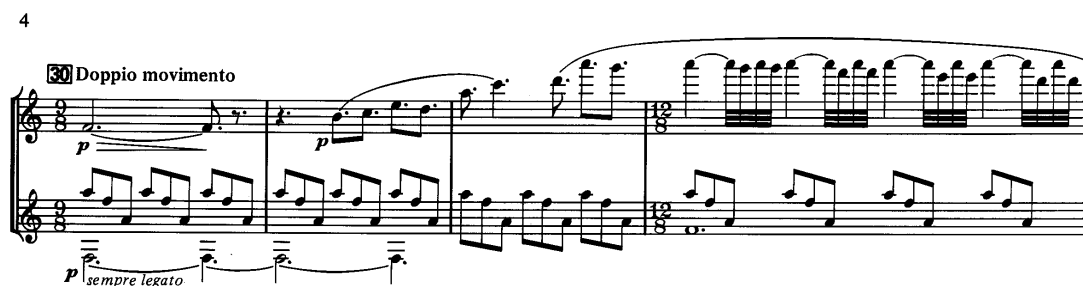


Fig. 6. Liebermann, *Sonata for flute and guitar*, Op. 25, I. Nocturno, measures 30-33.

2.2 Development

A general pause is placed between the exposition and the development. Liebermann comments on the structural role of the pause, considering it a common situation in contemporary music, "silence as music."¹² The dramatic effect is amplified by suggesting unresolved, interrupted thematic ideas from B3.



Fig. 7. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata*, First movement, measures 46-47

The development focuses on the processing of several ideas of thematic interest, in a chronology different from the initial one, which rather configures a recurring reading, in which, however, the events initially presented diachronically are now superimposed.

Immediately after the general pause, theme B3 (which we had just heard in the exhibition) is restated in combination with the initial motive of theme A (m. 49). The main theme no longer has the cantilena character of the exhibition, but a tense, syncopated one. The gradual crescendo of the section, combined with increasing rhythmic energy, increases the intensity, culminating in the return of theme B2 in measure 56. The transitional material (measures 53-55) summarizes different moments of the musical discourse, combining a clear reference to theme B1 (piano, right hand, measures 53-54) with an anticipation of theme B2 in the right-hand profile (F-E-G#-G, m.56), accompanied by the dotted rhythm, that is particularly characteristic feature of theme B3.



Fig. 8. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata*, First movement, B3/A, measures 48-49

¹² "the silence as music" in an interview with Paula Robinson, August 14, 1996, New York Times.

The return of the theme B2 (m.56) varies in terms of the melodic profile of the flute (the order of the intervals is slightly modified), but is easily recognizable thanks to the bass line, the dynamics (fff), and the flute's volutes, which traverse several registers. Liebermann again thickens the discourse, this time superimposing theme B2 with the rhythmic motif from B3, which thus persists in various forms until the end of the exposition.



Fig. 9. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata*, First movement, measures 56-57

In measures 58-59, there are passages that refer both to B3 (m. 46-47, end of the exposition) and to A (m.6), demonstrating the thematic connection, while measures 60-61 reiterate, in a varied form, the opening of B2.

Section B1 reappears in measure 62 (estatico), in a modified form (the beginning is rhythmically augmented), the melodic profile being accompanied by a new hypostasis of B3, in the high register. The effect is sparkling and seems inspired by the rhythm and contour of Wagner's leitmotif of fire, "Feuerzauber." The character achieved is fairy-like.



Fig. 10. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata*, First movement, measures 62-63

The themes continue to intertwine, with B3 overlapping, in measures 69-79, with a varied B1, in a form that reveals its affiliation with the melodic profile of theme I (A). In fact, as already mentioned, the motif of the entire section derives from the motifs of theme I (more precisely, B1 derives from A, B2 from B1, B3 from B2 and A), and the development seems to demonstrate and emphasize this particularity. The form of the development reflects the harmony of proportions between sections, found in classical and romantic music.

The return of theme A (bar 80) is followed by a short coda, symmetrical to the beginning of the development in that it begins with B3+A (theme A transformed, counterpointed), here with the center on G/g. The movement ends in *pp*, on the G sound center, sustained by the flute, but maintaining ambiguity through the return of the ostinato from the opening, which has D sharp as its center.

3. Second movement, Presto energico

If Part I is marked by night, moonlight, and reverie, the other side of the Sonata, *Presto energico*, is a Dionysian celebration, liberating from inhibitions. The succession of such contrasting scenes is reminiscent of the Venusberg in Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, where the composer violently tears his hero from the pious group of pilgrims and throws him into the midst of the Bacchanalia, a place of revelry but also of perdition.

In the opening section of the second movement of the Sonata, after a brief introduction by the piano, the flute presents a passionate theme (A) accompanied throughout the first phrase by a repetitive piano motif. The tonal center is E-flat, i.e., the enharmonic sound of D-sharp, which was the center of Part I, with the caveat that, despite their apparent identity, the two sounds are separated by 12 perfect fifths. The same major-minor ambiguity that we noticed in Part I is present here (in the piano texture, the minor third E-flat-G-sharp prevails, while in the flute texture, the major third E-flat-G prevails).



Fig. 11. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata, Part II, Theme A*, measures 1–6.

The double exposition of theme A (which is actually a characteristic feature of dance), as in the exposition of Part I, may have been intended not only to emphasize the frenzy of the movement, but also to familiarize the listener with complex horizontal polymetry, in which the succession of measures with a sixteenth-note time signature does not follow a specific pattern (9, 12, 9, 12, 9, 6, 9, 12, 15, 12, 6 in the first exposition, m. 1-11; 9, 12, 9, 6, 9, 6, 9, 12, 9, 12 in the second exposition, m. 12-22). The common denominator of these measures is the ternary grouping of sixteenth notes, which in turn is contradicted in measures 20-21, where the hemiolic groupings of 12/16 form a $\frac{3}{4}$ measure. At the same time, in these two measures, which together with measure 22 form a cadential complement (m.20-22), the oscillations of the accompaniment on the major trisones built on the sounds G and E flat, respectively G sharp and E, prepare the new center on the sound C (which preserves the major-minor ambiguity we noted earlier).



Fig. 12. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata, Part II*, measures 19-21.

The contrast created by theme B (bars 23–56) is mainly melodic in nature. While the piano continues its accompaniment formula, this time much more chromatic, the flute presents a typically oriental melody, both lyrical and expansive.



Fig. 13. *Lowell Liebermann, Sonata, Part II, Theme B, m. 25-30.*

With the second exposition of B (m. 45), we witness a hallucinatory piano ostinato, a pattern in octaves in the low register, which insistently affirms the same idea of major-minor ambiguity through the C-E-flat-E sequence, in a counterpoint formula, accompanied by arpeggios of diminished chords. The tension amplifies significantly across all sound parameters (dynamic, rhythmic, register, melodic). What seemed like a mysterious, lyrical melody becomes a means of expressing passionate states and irrational impulses.

The return of the refrain (theme A) in measure 57 brings a new dimension to the introduction (amplified from two to four measures), shifting the tonal-modal center from E-flat (as it was initially) to B (starting in measure 61) and a different texture of the accompaniment, which presents, in measures 61-66, a mirror symmetry (four sixteenths, framed by an octave) and proposes an unperturbed 6/16 pattern, regardless of the measure in which it is placed (9, 12 or 6/16), which creates a hidden polymetry. The appearance of groups of three repeated notes (piano, measures 67-69) represents a more consistent preparation for the appearance of theme C (these groups are thematic anticipations of the flute's interventions throughout theme C, where the flute becomes a quasi-secondary character). The roles of the soloists change in measure 81, with the beginning of theme C. The piano is given the leading role, the theme being incisive, striking, in 6/16 time, with an isorhythmic sixteenth-note movement, in parallel motion in both hands, a double octave apart.





Fig. 10. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata for Flute and Piano, Op. 23, Part II, Theme C, measures 81–101*.

The return of theme A (measure 102) overlaps with the material from theme C, following the pattern used in the development of part I. In measures 102-106, the incipit of theme C (G#-A#-B-E#, measure 81) is presented in a very interesting heterophonic texture, centered on G (located at a distance of 7 perfect fifths from the original), in the variant: G-A-Bb-Eb-D-G, brought in simultaneously with sixteenth note values (piano, right hand) and eighth notes separated by rests (piano, left hand). This new hypostasis represents a consistent augmentation of the initial variant, from measure 81, with the new note values being six times longer, when the rests are also taken into account. The phenomenon creates a 6/16 polymetry in the lower voice compared to the alternative measures in the other voices, which is also a reprise of an idea already used, but in a different context (the reprise of A, measures 61-66, proposed the same reiteration of a pattern in 6/16).

After the final return of themes B (m.121) and A (m.139), Liebermann composes a spectacular coda (measure 165). The frenzy of the finale is heightened by the piano writing, with strongly accented figures, requiring flexibility and rapidity from the performer in the extreme registers. This writing also provides visual excitement. The seemingly simple harmonic movement – the alternation of B-flat chords – is complicated by the strong accents of the piano and the ascending arpeggios of the flute. The harmonic rhythm is twice as fast starting in measure 169 (the chords change every 6 sixteenth notes), and the process is repeated from measure 173, when the alternation (every 3 sixteenth notes) of the chords changes to Si-Sol, then to sol-Si, alternating at 1 sixteenth note, in measure 174. The extraordinary tension built up by this powerful accelerando of the harmonic rhythm explodes in measure 175 with the highest note of the piece, D4, played by the flute.

CODA

25

The musical score for the Coda of Lowell Liebermann's Sonata for Flute and Piano, Op. 23, measures 165-172. The score is written for Flute and Piano. It features a complex, rhythmic texture with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The piano part has a dense, arpeggiated accompaniment. The flute part has a melodic line with many grace notes and slurs. The score is marked with 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'f' (forte). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system starts at measure 165 and ends at measure 170. The second system starts at measure 171 and ends at measure 172. The third system starts at measure 173 and ends at measure 174. The score is marked with 'CODA' at the top center and the page number '25' at the top right.

Fig. 14. Lowell Liebermann, *Sonata for Flute and Piano*, Op. 23, Coda, m. 165-172

The second movement, *Presto energico*, may be the main reason for the enormous success of the Sonata. It is true that the technical virtuosity of the two instrumentalists is pushed to the limit, which adds to the spectacular nature of the movement, created by a continuous rhythmic intensity.

4. Conclusions

The classical organization of composition and the attraction to the tonal system remain Liebermann's basic musical values and attach him to postmodern aesthetics. If there is still an important modernist current in the present day, characterized by anti-form, playfulness, and chance, in Liebermann's case, musical forms (sonata, rondo, or fugue) are meticulously crafted, and the clearly contrasting movements in the Sonata for Flute and Piano, Op. 23, go beyond avant-garde aesthetic reflexes. The use of tonal principles and the organic approach to composition are more a legacy of the classical-romantic tradition than conscious affiliations with postmodernism; in fact, they can be seen simply as creative choices he made from among many other valid possibilities. Liebermann's desire to compose organically (by developing the whole from a generative nucleus) may be more a sign of his ideological ties to a valuable past, which he wanted to restructure out of a desire to create the new through the old. However, his works with a pronounced tonal imprint are also a reaction against modernism, in which the need for originality led to the abandonment of old systems of expression. And he is not alone: in the 1970s, following on from the minimalist movement of the 1960s (promoted by Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Philip Glass, and La Monte Young), composers such as Ned Rorem (b. 1923), Dominick Argento (1927-2019), David Walter Del Tredici (b. 1937), and John Harris Harbison (b. 1938) opted for a revival of tonal music.

In addition to his embrace of postmodern aesthetics, Liebermann's appropriation of tradition—evident in his choice to incorporate forms, compositional techniques, and even musical fragments from the past—may reflect the artist's desire to relate to a deeper ideal, in the sense of consonance with the aesthetic and human values that correspond to classical music. Liebermann remains the same prolific composer, most of his works being commissioned, and his opuses are enjoyed by prodigious musicians, all of which are proof of his abilities and contributions to contemporary music. Liebermann is the voice of a postmodern artist who speaks to today's audience, reinterpreting the past and filtering it through a contemporary sensibility, unifying tradition with innovation. Certainly, all his contributions to the flute repertoire are wonderful works, sources of professional satisfaction and excitement, which should be included in the repertoire of the contemporary flutist.

5. References

- **Books**

- Garner, Lisa M. 1997. *Lowell Liebermann: A Stylistic Analysis and Discussion of the Sonata for Flute and Piano, op. 23, Sonata for Flute and Guitar, op. 25, and Soliloquy for Flute Solo, op. 44*, Teză, Rice University,
- Olivier Messiaen. 1944. *Technique de mon langage musical*, Paris, Alphonse Leduc, vol. I, p. 58.

- **Webography**

- Duffie, Bruce. 1998. Composer Lowell Liebermann: *A Conversation with Bruce Duffie*. Retrieved May 22, 2026, from <https://www.bruceduffie.com/liebermann2.html>.
- The New School Mannes. Profile: Lowell Liebermann. Retrieved May 22, 2026, from <https://www.newschool.edu/mannes/faculty/lowell-liebermann/>.
- Robison, Paula, flute; Thibaudet, Jean-Yves, piano. European Premiere Performance, Spoleto Festival 1987, Spoleto, Italy. Retrieved May 24, 2026, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQpbBmPoUKI>.

- **Articles**

- Dressler, Jack. 1988. *Liebermann's New Flute Sonata: a Tour De Force for Musicians*. The News and Courier.
- Duffie, Bruce. 1998. *Composer Lowell Liebermann: A Conversation with Bruce Duffie*.
- Ginell, Richard S. March 30, 1991. *Music Reviews: Flutist Robison at Bing Theater*. Los Angeles Times.
- Rodgers, Jonathan. March 29, 1988. *Flutist's unmistakable enthusiasm for music becomes infectious ("Big, lyrically intense song")*, The Florida Times.
- Robison, Paula. December 14, 2007. *Interview with Lowell Liebermann*. New York Times.
- "The Silence as Music." August 14, 1996. Interview with Paula Robison, New York Times.