

A DIVISION ON A GROUND

for five harps

by
GOTFRIED FINGER

arranged by
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Gottfreid Finger (1660-1730) was a Moravian viol player and composer. He served as a musician in a Catholic chapel in London beginning in 1687 and remained in London working as a performer and composer. After he was only awarded only 4th prize in a 1701 competition, he left for North Germany, where he later worked for the Innsbruck Court. Most of his compositions are works for the theatre, as well as instrumental sonatas.

Ground - a short melody that is repeated many times in succession, usually in the bass (hence, the common term *ground bass*). Continuous variation that fits the pattern (the division) occurs in a higher register. This composition originally came from Finger's *The Division Flute* (1706).

Division – a type of variation in which each note of a melodic line is divided into shorter, faster-moving notes. These “dividers,” punctuating the melodic line, are notes in rhythmic repetition comprised of simple ornamentation such as a trill, *cambiata*, or turn.



Performance Notes

This work can be performed several ways, on either lever harps or pedal harps.

2 Harps: Harp 1 and Harp 4

In its simplest form, a musician or a pairing of a bass instrument and an embellishing choral instrument would perform the ground, while a solo instrument would perform the ten variations above it.

3 Harps: Harp 1, Harp 4, and Harp 5

In another simple rendition, a second instrument is added to fill out the *ground's* suggested harmonies.

3 Harps (alternate): Harp 1, Harp 2, and Harp 5

In a more complex version, the division can be performed in canon to create counterpoint. Because the *division* is written to fit the 8-measure-long ground, it's possible to layer any eight-measure variation on another.

4 Harps: Harp 1, Harp 2, Harp 4, and Harp 5

The *division's* variations are layered in counterpoint, and the *ground's* harmonies are embellished.

5 Harps: Harp 1, Harp 2, Harp 3, Harp 4, and Harp 5

In the most complex version, 3 layers of counterpoint in the *division* are played against 2 layers of the *ground*.

A Division on a Ground

Gotfried Finger
arr. Erin Freund

① **Andante**

p

mp

Set 4F#

Set 4F#

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2

Musical score for harps Hp.1, Hp.2, Hp.3, Hp.4, and Hp.5, measures 7-13. The score is in G minor (two flats) and 3/4 time. Hp.1 and Hp.2 play a melodic line starting at measure 7, marked *p*. Hp.4 plays a harmonic accompaniment, marked *mf*. Hp.3 and Hp.5 are silent.

3

Musical score for harps Hp.1, Hp.2, Hp.3, Hp.4, and Hp.5, measures 14-20. The score is in G minor (two flats) and 3/4 time. Hp.1 and Hp.2 play a melodic line starting at measure 14, marked *p*. Hp.3 plays a harmonic accompaniment, marked *p*. Hp.4 plays a harmonic accompaniment, marked *f*. Hp.5 is silent.