

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AN ANALYSIS OF FRANCIS POULENC'S COMPOSITION
SONATA FOR CLARINET IN B \flat AND PIANO
TECHNICAL CHALLENGES FACED BY CLARINETTIST IN
PERFORMING**

AZMI BIN AZHAR

2011985763

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of

BACHELOR DEGREE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (Hons.)

Faculty of Music

January 2014

DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

“I declare that this thesis is the result of my own work except the ideas and summaries which I have clarified their sources. This thesis has not accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any degree.”

.....

(AZMI BIN AZHAR)

Faculty of Music

Universiti Teknologi MARA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Page	i
Declaration of Authorship	ii
Letter of submission	iii
Abstract	iv
Table of contents	v
List of Figures	ix

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the Study	
1.1.1	Neo-Classicism	1
1.1.2	Sonata for Clarinet in Bb and Piano	1
1.1.3	Francis Poulenc	3
1.2	Statement of the Problem	4
1.3	Objective of the Study	5
1.4	Research Questions	5
1.5	Significance of the Study	5
1.6	Limitation of the Study	6

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Musical Styles	
2.1.1	20th Century Musical Styles	7

ABSTRACT

AN ANALYSIS OF FRANCIS POULENC'S COMPOSITION

SONATA FOR CLARINET IN Bb AND PIANO

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES FACED BY CLARINETTIST IN PERFORMING

Francis Poulenc is a French Composer and one of the members of Les Six. The influenced of his composition is changing and he has his own stylistic era. The Sonata for Clarinet in Bb and Piano is one of his last works. This sonata is based on the traditional sonata form and influenced by the neoclassical sonata characteristics. It is written to one of his friends named Arthur Honneger. The sonata is written for Clarinet in Bb and Piano. Therefore, there's some difficulties has been faced by the clarinetist in order to play this sonata. Confusion on how to deliver the sonata leads to a bad deliverance in performing. This study will show the characteristics of the neoclassical sonata, defining the compositional technique that has been used by Francis Poulenc, and defining the technical difficulties that is occurring in this sonata in term of performing. This research is important as it will also give and ideas about the common and uncommon problems occur while playing this sonata. . It is hoped that will benefit every clarinetist in all kinds of profession in order to help them to overcome all the issues and deliver the sonata very well. The subjects of this research are limited to only 6 respondents who played this sonata before.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

Neo-Classicism. Neoclassicism was a style cultivated between the two world wars, which sought to revive the balanced forms and clearly perceptible thematic processes of the 17th and 18th centuries, in a repudiation of what were seen as exaggerated gestures and formlessness of late Romanticism. Because these composers generally replaced the functional tonality of their models with extended tonality, modality, or atonality, the term is often taken to imply parody or distortion of the Baroque or Classical style (Whittall 2001). Famous examples include Prokofiev's Classical Symphony and Stravinsky's Pulcinella. Paul Hindemith (Symphony: Mathis der Maler) and Darius Milhaud also used this style. Maurice Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin* is often seen as neo-baroque though the distinction between the terms is not always made.

Pre-World War I reaction against the ultra-chromatic emotionalism of German late-Romantic music and more dissonant and atonal subjectivity of Expressionism contributed to the revival of interest in earlier music. In this connection, the term Neo-Classicism first applied to the music in the twentieth century by Ferruccio Busoni. It represents those styles devoid of personal expression and extra musical symbolization underlying the aesthetics of the late-Romantic and Expressionist movement. (Antokoletz, 1992).

Sonata for Clarinet in Bb and Piano. Sonata for Clarinet and Piano is written by Francis Poulenc in 1962. This piece is in sonata form. According to Virginia Tech Multimedia Music Dictionary, sonata is an instrumental genre in several movements for a soloist or ensemble. The original usage for the term "sonata" implied a composition that was