

Two Fresh Crab Canons

J S Bach's Musical Offering (1747) contained several 'musical puzzle' pieces including one which is now called the Crab Canon.

It is a tune with a particular quality:

if it is re-written backwards, and both melodies are played together, they will form an interesting and euphonious whole.

Here are two new tunes following Bach's principle.

Tune #1 "Sweet Joan Furze"

D Sheldon

$\text{♩} = 95$ F6 G Am Em7 Fmaj7 Fmaj7 Em7 Am G F6

the same tune, reversed

Detailed description: This musical score is for a canon in 4/4 time with a tempo of 95. It consists of two staves. The top staff contains the original melody, and the bottom staff contains the same melody reversed. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece is divided into measures with the following chords: F6, G, Am, Em7, Fmaj7, Fmaj7, Em7, Am, G, and F6. The melody features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, ending with a repeat sign.

Tune #2 "Turner's favourite"

$\text{♩} = 85$ D A/C# D/B A G Em F#m G G F#m Em G A D/B A/C# D

the same tune, reversed

Detailed description: This musical score is for a canon in 4/4 time with a tempo of 85. It consists of two staves. The top staff contains the original melody, and the bottom staff contains the same melody reversed. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piece is divided into measures with the following chords: D, A/C#, D/B, A, G, Em, F#m, G, G, F#m, Em, G, A, D/B, A/C#, and D. The melody features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The piece ends with a repeat sign.