Analysis of Toccata and Fugue in D Minor

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Toccata and Fugue in D Minor- Bach

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, Analysis:

This analysis will not be given as your typical analysis which is made to make sense mathematically. We could attempt to do this but at times the very soul of music is sucked out and we lose the imagination and spirit behind it. I know this because I attempted to do this same; for that very reason this analysis will be given as a story. There will be a girl, creatures and fairies. The creature will appear when the sound and feel of the music is ominous. The fairies will appear when the sound and feel is playful. This story will be of a girl whose imagination has come to life and for a moment, it gets the best of her. She will walk through a stair case while being followed by creatures that need her soul in order for them to be truly alive. Before going on to the story please refer to table 1 for a clearer understanding.

This piece has two parts one is called the toccata and the other is the fugue. The toccata is typically used for an organ or a keyboard. It is played in a free and open style so that it may show off the technical skill of the composer. The fugue comes from the Latin word Fuga, which means to flee. Within the Fugue there are three sections, the exposition, the development, and the recapitulation. It is credited for as a fully developed imitative counter point.

To listen to this song please follow the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipzR9bhei_o

She takes one fearful step down this never ending stairwell, she pauses at platform thinking to herself, "I'm being silly", however, immediately after saying this she runs down (descending line) five steps. She pauses at a platform again and sighs a loud, with same thought in her mind.
She's now down to the next level of stairs and now even more afraid because she's going deeper (lower pitch) into the darkness. She takes one step, then another down and hits yet another platform, again she pauses in fear of her next step, but with no choice, she takes it. She almost trips in confusion because this stairwell has taken a strange turn, instead of making the next step lower, the step is somehow higher (plateau then a descending line followed by a plateau). Her heart is filling with even more fear, the fear of what happens next. She takes another step but this step goes downward, and then she hits another platform.

Again she reaches another level, even lower than before. She is now sweating with fear and madness. She's yet to hear any sound of life other than her own breathing and dripping sweat. Yet, she continues to move, going even further and deeper (descending line) into the darkness than before. She's moving fast and her pauses are short. She takes her first step into the next level; she then goes down one step and up one step to the platform (plateau). She stands there still thinking, “I have to keep going”. She quickly gathers her courage and takes five steps downward until she reaches the platform.

As she takes another step she pauses, unfortunately she feels her imagination take life. She feels something and she now heard six other footsteps follow her each making a pause (plateau). She hits the highest step and then takes one step down, this time truly realizing her imagination has taken life.
Because as she took the last step she heard each of the others hit a platform but one hit a step downward before reaching their platform. She feels as though she is being followed, but she doesn’t hear much. She calls out but hears no reply.

As she extends her leg to reach the next step she quickly realizes it’s going to be a drop down. But she’s a clever girl, she leans over allowing her sweat to drip, she waits until she feels a drop fall of her cheek and she begins counting the seconds until she hears it land. Quickly, she jumps and immediately begins running up, up, down, up, up, down, up, up, down, up, up, up, up, up, up, up. She pauses for a second to catch her breath, "only a second" She heard those steps she had heard earlier following her, it was only one set of steps lightly (higher pitch) running below her. "Is this a person or creature trapped here as I am? If so, then why can I not shake this fear that it is coming after me?"

"I feel as though I know these steps, like I’ve been doing this my whole life, again, and again, and again. Have I? Up until now I didn't really give it a thought." She then leaped off to the next level without any hesitation at all. She then realizes she had done this before and she repeats running the same way as before. "Am I alive? Why do I hurt all over? You can't feel pain if you're dead, can you?" She's still repeating her steps at a higher level, and her follower does the same just below her, they both run in perfect sync. Each pauses only for a moment.
"I have to stop hesitating, but I need to catch my breath." She jumps straight forward and jumps one step down. She and the follower below her quickly begin running, up, down, up, up, up, and repeat this with an overall motion of going down (descending line). "Can you hear me down there?" She doesn't hear a reply, "We have to get out of here! Please I'm begging you just say something, anything at all, let me know I'm not going crazy!" Still nothing is heard and her feelings of disparity and angry begin increasing.

She takes a jump down, there it is this thing that's been following her. She begins shaking uncontrollably, a loud roar of a laughter blows her up to the highest plateau, and when she lands, she hears seven others laughing. Shaking and crying she begins running downward and then upward again, she takes two long steps down before reaching a short plateau she stands there for four seconds breathing heavily. Then, again she's hears laughter but only five, the one which has been following her is the most distinct and maddened.
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(1:20-1:34)

She jumps, and each step from then is a short leap, she leaps up three, down one, then again
three up, and continues this pattern. The steps then change to down one up one, in an overall
downward motion. Throughout this she hears a creature running forwards just below her, closer and
closer, it's gaining on her. She continues running, and they bump into each other, and suddenly it's
in front of her she takes another step and then goes down on, then up again where they run into each
other. She leaps down then up where her heads gets slightly kicked and a small chuckle is heard along
with "There's no embers glowing, the fire's gone out and there's no need to shout... nothing I ever do
seems to ease my fury, Get out of my way I'm the hangman today and the judge and jury" (Dani, 2010).
She says nothing and leaps down then up, repeating this downward (descending line). Each continues to
run until she finally hits a plateau. She catches her breath again looking up into the darkness.

(1:35-1:47)

Suddenly, she flies upward and begins taking moderately slow steps downward (descending line); she walks down three jumps up and up one. While walking down she hears two others softly
walking above her. When she lands from her short flight upward, she hears the two others pause
(plateau). She quickly looks up and begins trembling; she's heard "him" or it. The evil one is present
again. Each of them take a slow step down cautiously, each aware of the others presence. She takes one
step up while the others take one down. Each step is slow and long (plateau). She continues to breathe
heavily trying not to breathe too loudly, so as not to disturb the others. She takes another step and can
now hear a fourth creature take a step as well and pause (plateau). "Enjoy this girl, it will not last long ...
ready to play yet?" Again she is taken and flown upward at the very top of a stairwell (highest line).

These step are repeated as the ones before. The taunting begins from the creature, "A tragedy
starts with a shattered glass heart"(Dani,2008) She continues her steps, sobbing softly. "Somebody help
me", she whispers, "Please... someone, anyone... get me out of here." Her whispers were interrupted
"No time for tears... no time to run and hide, everything will be alright, everything will turn out fine....
the voices will pass with time."(Dani, 2008) This voice was different, it was soft and rough, all at the
same time. She takes her last step and pauses (plateau), so do the others. Her pause however, is longer.
She gathers her energy and takes a deep breath.
She lets out her breath and starts running down (descending line). She then runs up, then down again and quickly up. Her breathing is heavy, she falls down and tries to gather her strength quickly and runs up again. She again falls down and sits (plateau) trying to catch her breath.

As she jumps down, she hears three others hit a long step (plateau). They all walk slowly, and the two above her and one below begin taunting her again. She takes her first step down and hears a scream of anger as they take their step. She takes one step up and hears, "You better hope you make it safe back to your own world... only time will tell if you can break this spell", and then silence. She takes one step up and hears two staggered entrances above her, and the one below takes a long drawn out step. She takes a step down and then a step up, everyone jumps and then pauses (plateau). She jumps to her next step up and in unison everyone pauses (plateau). She takes another step up and falls to her knees as she hears screaming from below.
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(2:06-2:13)

She runs down two then up three, she pauses letting out a grunt of her that frightened her more than the others. She runs down four and jumps up one, again runs down four. She struggles to jump this time, when she gets there she then has to run down eight. When she gets to another step she pauses (plateau), she hears the others, a couple entered staggered to their steps but one softer than the other (imitative counter point).

(2:14- 2:30)

She and the one above her begin to run, both no longer certain of who chasing who. Up, down, down, up, down, up, up, they do this for a while, however, the stairwell goes up over all (ascending line) and then over all down (descending line). They both reach a point where they only run forward, she then runs three forward before she gets to another level. To do this she must go up one then down one first. Then, both pause at their next step and she can now hear six others jump to their steps below her. Everyone jumps to their next step and pause (plateau).

(2:31- 2:39)

Again they jump, but only five jump with her. The creature to the very bottom takes two menacing steps downward (descending line). Then they all jump and pause, "this feels like a game" she whispered, "now you're getting it" says the creature. As she jumps down the three above her do the same, but the one below runs down, up, down, down up, down, up, down, up, down and pauses (plateau).
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(2:39 - 3:13)

All five are at their steps standing still, each breathing at a different pitch, one more frightening than the other. She takes a step upward as does everyone else, and the one below her takes one step down. She takes another step forward and takes a long pause. She hears one take a short pause, then another step down and pause again. The one above her takes a long pause, then down another step, as this is happening the one below has taken two steps down and pauses (plateau).

As she begins to take a step forward she almost falls. Suddenly, she feels something grab her. They fly upward. She feels different, in a freeing way. She can finally see a small hint of light and she lands safely to her step. Something kisses her cheek lightly and she begins to shiver because it’s so cold. As she jogs downward (descending line) four steps she begins thinking, "Is this part of their game, to give me a false sense of security. Maybe this is the voice from earlier, the one that said everything will be fine." As she was jogging downward someone above her was also jogging. She takes one step down and then begins to jog up three. "I hear wings, they sound large." She begins to feel the wind from them touch her face as she gets to her last step up. She continues to jog and at her seventh step she can hear someone running downward (descending line) and backward.

Something again lifts her up and she begins jogging straight when she lands to her step. Someone below her begins to run downward again (descending line) and then upward again (ascending line). She hears two others do the same but they stagger in. By her sixteenth step she hears a heavy step below her, but thankfully only hears four of them.

The light is even brighter now, and she can finally see something, "they all have wings..." She stops speaking because what she sees below her is terrifying. They are creatures of different sizes and shapes. She shakes her head and begins to focus only on those directly below her. She leaps two steps, and for every two steps she does, four others take theirs. The one below her goes upward and then down and the other three continue straight wards. They overall go in a downward motion (descending line). She doesn't know how long this divine beauty will last. The creatures running along with her look like fairies. Some have long flowing hair and others short and feathered. They're all smiling and giggling, this comforts her.
She takes one step down, as she does she can hear two above her and one below her. The one at the very top runs straight ward while the others run down and up like a long curve. It then drops down and continues, it goes up and then down, and up. The one below her does the steps but they are closer together and shorter. She leaps up and takes two steps, and the one below her does the same. She jumps down and takes two steps forward, while the one below climbs up. Now the one above her takes closer steps. They all continue this pattern three times, each humming something of its own.

Each of them meet up, the one above her and the one below her and herself. She and the one above her climb upward (ascending line), all while the one below her climbs downward (descending line). Then, the one at the top begins going slightly upward then downward. She and the one below her jump to a platform of their own (plateau), they pause and giggle at one another. Then everyone continues the same pattern as before.
She jumps up and now it is only she and the one above her. She begins running down while the other moves up, down, up, and down again. There is now so much chaos in the way that everyone is running, but it's really quite beautiful the way they all run downward (descending lines) giggling at each other. Meanwhile the one above her takes long silly steps down (plateau), pausing each time.

"What is this, everything is starting to feel different." She gets to a platform (plateau) and continues moving forward. The one at the very top does the same as she does. The one below her goes downward and upward. The creature below is scary her, deep down into her soul. The creature below is sobbing in pain and misery. There is an even smaller creature below it, it goes down and then upward (descending/ascending line). As the little one leaps to a lower level and runs up, the sobbing slows to a whisper and then stops.

Everyone hits a short platform (plateau), the creature below takes two steps up then jumps to do the same as the others. She however goes downward and then jumps up to do the same as the others. She looks up seeing the creature above her do the same, "I like this, this is comfortable.". They continue to do this for awhile, and now she and the one above her are so close they can almost touch. They run down and then up creating a (V) shape. All of this takes place while the one below her takes three steps up, jumps down, jumps up, and then takes a few more steps.
(4:00- 4:13)

She jumps a step down and continues running forward. As she does this the one above her playfully makes a (V) shape, as well as the one below her. Midway way through the one above jumps down and continues running upward while the one below does the same. "Let's play", giggled the one below her, he then flies up and lifts her off of her steps. She is then placed on the highest of steps. She begins running downward and then pauses (plateau), "your turn", she calls out. Then, the creature runs down and pauses. Again she is lifted to a step and she races downward, they do this once more.

(4:13- 4:22)

She now has to jump to her next step. The silly one at the very top runs and then jumps, it jumps a second time and then runs four steps. She then jumps to her step, as the creature runs two steps then jumps. He runs another four steps and she takes her next step forward. He goes up, down, up, up. When he goes up, the little one jumps. "What's happened, everything so different?" she whispers to herself.

(4:22- 4:33)
"I suppose I can't complain" She reaches her last step and the one above begins running downward (descending line), and then upward (ascending line). The tiny one grows large and lifts her up to a step, where she runs down one, then up, and again down. He finishes her steps by running downward (descending line). She again gets lifted to another step, and she then finishes the creatures steps. They continue to do this for a while. Then, suddenly they both burst into laughter, she's no longer exhausted and at the moment doesn't care what is to come next.

(4:33 - 5:04)

She jumps up and takes one step forward, while the one above her goes forward as the one below it creates a (U) shape. She jumps down and yells "I'll race you", she begins running upward and midway through notices that there is someone below her running up as well. The one above takes a step and disappears, and the one below her is now slightly above her. They begin racing downward (descending line) and she notices a small creature. It takes one step down then up and jumps to another step only to do the same. "What a strange one she thought to herself. At that moment she is lifted while the other two continue their steps downward. The little one begins to run upward (ascending line) then down, she lands and then finishes his steps downward. They begin to play the game she had previously played with the other creature. She looks into its eyes and immediately begins to shiver, the creature widens its smile exposing its sharp teeth. "It smells like iron... is that blood... it's dark I can't tell... it's just my imagination..." her thoughts get interrupted, "No it isn't", replied the creature. They continue to play going higher and lower than before, and she can no longer control her shivering.

(5:04 - 5:10)

She hears large wings and is lifted off of her feet. "It's started again, these thing are back and they aren't friendly". Just as she finishes her thoughts the creature begins to spin her. The other continues to run downward, it jumps up, take a few steps down and jumps up to do the same. It begins to run up and pauses (plateau). She gets dropped onto her step and runs down. The one below her
jumps to its next step as she jumps up to her next step. When she gets there she is lifted again, while the one below her begins to run upward (ascending line). When it gets to the top another creature begins to run above it, even uglier and angrier than it. They both run downward and the one below it disappears.

(5:13 - 5:15)

Finally, the creature releases her. She takes two quick steps down and a slow exhausting three up. She hears wings again and shortly after she feels its talons grab her wrists. The creature above takes one long step down then another creature below it begins running downward creating a (U) shape. By the time the creature above takes its fourth step, she is dropped. She can now feel something warm running down her wrists. She jumps to a step, and now all her steps are too high or too low. She has to continuously jump up only to fall down again. The one above is able to simply walk his steps while the below it continues its (U) shape.

(5:15 - 5:25)

Her steps finally change and she can now simply run forward while the one above her has to now jump only to fall again. Now the creature below her creates a (U) shape. The one below must run, jump down then run upward to create the wide (U) shape. The two creature below and she meet up for only a second. They whispered something about her, she knows this because as they do they both look up at her. She then jumps down and they both continue upward (ascending line).
She begins to run down then up, down, up, down and down. She does this three times while the one below her continues his pattern from before. The one above her does as she does, however, it must jump up, down, and up again. When she begins to take three steps up, she can smell iron again. She runs into the creature that was above her, he pushes her down and she climbs back up only to get shoved down again. They both begin to run up then down. Meanwhile the one below her jumps down, up, down, and up again.

She now leaps and begins to run forward, the one on the very bottom pauses as she does this (plateau). The one above her runs upward and downward (ascending/descending) in a long curve. The one below her makes a long (U) shape below her. He starts to jump down then run up and disappears. She then takes two steps down and one step up where she pauses (plateau). As she pauses she lets out a loud grunt, no one notices and they all continue their steps. The one above her goes in an upward and downward motion. The one below jumps down, then up, down, and up.

She takes another step down, then up, as she does this the one blow her jumps up and pauses (plateau), she begins to climb up and the one below her goes down. When she goes downward the one below her jumps up, takes one step down and up again. She begins to go upward and the one above her begins to progressively get lower and closer to her. She continues to go up and downward, occasionally falling from exhaustion. “I'm only tired when they're around, maybe they drain my energy, maybe they need me...” When she goes upward she begins feeling more exhausted, and she almost runs into the
creature, but with one swift movement of its wings he flies upward to a higher level of steps. Relieved she begins running downward as does he. Together they jump up and run downward again.

(5:50 - 6:05)

They both run downward (descending line) and as they each pause (plateau) one of the good creatures joins them, but only for a moment. All three move one step together, she jumps to another step and someone above her comes racing down screaming at the top of their lungs. Suddenly, everyone begins to run upward (ascending line) screaming. When she reaches a platform (plateau) she’s transported upward. The others continue moving, she and the one above her take two long steps. When each take their step down she feels something hot grab her, and it burns her. She hears a high pitched “No! She’s not yours to keep” and she is then transported downward. "Was that the fairy like creature? What the heck burned me?"

She begins running downward (descending line), with the fairy just above her guarding her. She continues to run down, she looks up and notices that the scary creature is moving slightly up then down and the fairy is running downward. She can hear them yelling at each other. She now begins to run upward (ascending line) as someone below her runs forward. She then begins to run downward and hears, "she’s not yours, send her back". The two creatures are so close together now she jumps up and begins running forward.

(6:05- 6:16)
She jumps down and pauses looking up at the two fighting. The evil creature begins walking upward (ascending) slowly, while the fairy runs forward with a small guard of its own making a (U shape) beneath it. The evil creature jumps down and then walks upward, the tiny creature does the same. All the while she stands their own in complete awe of the fire and ice that surrounds her the tiny creature and the evil one remain. The tiny creatures begin walking downward (descending line) and the other upward (ascending line). They continue running and are slightly going upward. Finally she takes a step forward and every one pauses for a short moment (plateau).

(6:17-6:34)

She starts racing forward with the creature below her creating a wide (U) shape, it then jumps down and begins running upward (ascending line). When she jumps down it simply disappears. It didn't really disappear, it only moved above her moving upward (ascending line) and a new creature took its place below her going forward. She takes two steps forward and ones step up. She feels a pain in her chest but continues to move. She takes a step down, down, and up again.

She hears something large, and it reaches down and grabs her covering her mouth and flies her upward. She is able to see everything and everyone. "Don't be afraid by what you see" it whispered. She could see the creatures, they're all chained and running like little workers. Then she hears the one at the very top of the steps scream for her as it moved up, down and up, and it pauses. He jumps and opens his wings letting out a monstrous roar that was able to shake her body so hard she almost fainted. While he does the creature below him pauses (plateau) to sniff the air, “she’s still here", he says as he takes a step down. He begins running upward then downward and upward again, the entire time sniffing the air. The one below him walks two steps, one down, one up, and then it jumps down and starts to climb up completely unaware of what's happening.

(6:34- 6:46)
She continues watching as the tiny fairy and the tiny creature finish the other steps. The fairy goes up then down, and the creature does the same. While one and sometimes two below them jump to fuel the others power. Sometimes the steps are higher and sometimes lower. Now her shoulders are beginning to get colder as the fairy holds her, but it doesn't hurt and she's perfectly okay with that.

(6:46- 6:51)

The fairy places her down and she begins going up, she jumps up and down and down again. She again jumps up and then takes two steps down then another and she pauses (plateau). When n she pauses she sees a small creature and jumps in fear and takes two steps down and another step up. Meanwhile two above her begin fighting, one going down and the other up. They then both begin going upward and down. The creature below her moved strangely. It went up, down, and forward while whispering "mine... yours... no it is..."

(6:51 - 7:10)

She jumps up and begins moving downward, the fairy takes three steps and disappears. The fairy has left her with the creatures and she's afraid no one will protect her. She and the creature above her move downward (descending line) then jump up only to run down again. The one below her continues to strangely, it jumps down, takes a step up and jumps down again. When she and the one above her reach the bottom they begin moving upward (ascending line) as though it was of their own free will. The creature below takes one step up, another step up, then down, up, down, up, down, down, up. It then pauses looking up smiling, "mine... yours... no... It is..."
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She ignores it and continues walking, she reaches the top and takes a deep breath and sighs. The creature above her and she begin moving downward, then it goes up and she goes down. She doesn't notice right away but now someone else is above her and it's walking forward, and dragging its tail. She runs up and so does the other, she jumps down and the other does the same. She then goes down and slightly up, when she does she notices the fairy is back and it’s attracted the creature. The creature comes closer, all three of them now moving together. The one below going down, up, down and up. At times on would pause (plateau) while the others continued. She could now hear two fairies and four creatures. She fell to her knees as they all together in perfect unison.

(7:10 – 7:20)

“You have to try and win, it’s the only way” she stood there in awe, “Win what?!?” All she could make out was, “your soul”. She runs four steps up and jumps, before she landed the creature runs four steps up. She then lands and begins screaming as she ran four steps up. She jumps again and the creature runs upward (ascending line). She lands and then does the same thing again while the creature runs downward (descending line). She then begins running upward and eventually the come so close they almost touch, but she can feel the heat from its body. Together they create a zig zag of a shape. She then runs up and falls from exhaustion, the creature imitates her in a way that is taunting.

(7:21- 7:26)

She jumps and as she does she can now hear four creatures. They all pause waiting to hear from the others. “It’s mine” they yell. The one at the very bottom begins sniffing the air in glee as he takes a step down and up. She and the other three creatures take a step and then the other follows. She takes a deep breath and jumps.

(Guerra) 18
(7:26 – 7:39)

The one below jumps up, takes one step up, jumps down then up, he does three times before he pauses and jumps down. When she lands from her jump she pauses to catch her breath, unfortunately, there are six creatures and all she manages to breathe in is fire and smoke. They each take a step and she takes an extra two steps downward and one forward.

(7:40 – 7:50)

She jumps up, takes a step down then up. A tiny fairy is now present and it does the same movement but leaps. They both playfully run upward and downward (ascending/descending line). She jumps three up and then three down several times, while the fairy runs down and leaps.
Quickly someone grasps her shoulders and she feels it freezing her. The fairy runs up and pauses because it now sees four of its friends and one lonely creature. They all jump to their next step and then the lowest fairy jumps once more and so on (polyphonic). They each jump quickly to their next step while ice and snow flakes surround their beautifully constructed bodies.

Three fairies jump to the next step as well as a creature, then the three below jump to the next step. The fairy above takes a step up and the others follow its step. At this point there are now four creatures and the biggest fairy maintains its position, while the other two fairies and one creature take a step forward. Swords are being drawn and there is now a mixture of ice and fire. The last thing she heard before awakening was, “Tonight in flames, the world will fear our names…” (Dani, 2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Individual note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jump</td>
<td>Some notes are lower or higher and there are seconds in between, so we will call them jumps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pause</td>
<td>The note is held for a half second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau</td>
<td>The note or notes are held for several seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work cited