



Brian Gray

Arranger, Composer

United States (USA), Erie, Pennsylvania

About the artist

Brian S. Gray is a self-taught musician / composer. He also has an interest in amphibians and reptiles, thus, many of his compositions have herpetological titles. Brian Gray started playing guitar when he was 13. He became interested in classical guitar and composition while in high school. Several of his herpetological publications can be downloaded at: http://cnah.org/cnah_pdf.asp

About the piece



Title:	Serpentes Prelude No.9 [Arizona elegans]
Composer:	Gray, Brian
Licence:	Copyright © Brian Gray
Publisher:	Brian S. gray
Instrumentation:	2 clarinets (B-flat) and 1 bass clarinet
Style:	Contemporary

Brian Gray on free-scores.com

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Serpentes Prelude No. 9
Arizona elegans

Composed by Brian S. Gray

Introduction

The Serpentes Preludes is a work that contains twenty-four preludes, each “dedicated” to a species of snake. The preludes were originally composed for piano. The ninth of the set, *Arizona elegans* is arranged here for b-flat clarinet and bass clarinet.

Key, tempo, time signature, and length (number of measures) were determined as follows:

Key was determined by the first letter in the species’ generic (genus) name. In biological nomenclature, a scientific name is made up of two (sometimes three) parts. The first part represents the genus the species is assigned to. A genus is a group of species that share certain characteristics. For example, humans are in the genus *Homo*. The second part is the specific or species name; for us humans, our species is *sapiens*, therefore we are *Homo sapiens*. No other species has this two-part combination.

Dorsal scale type was used to determine whether a prelude was to be in a major or minor key as follows: if the species has smooth scales, the prelude was to be in a major key; if the scales are keeled, then the key was minor.

Meter was chosen based on whether the anal plate was single or divided. The anal plate is a scale located ventrally near the base of the tail and covering the cloaca. If the scale is single, a triple or compound meter was chosen (3/4 or 6/8); if it is divided, a duple or quadruple meter was chosen (2/4 or 4/4).

Tempo was based on the number of ventral scales reported for the species. The ventral scales are wider than long and occur on the belly from behind the head to the base of the tail. In most cases I chose the lowest reported number.

The length of each prelude (number of measures) was dependent upon the reported number of dorsal scale rows at midbody. The imbricate scales of the body are arranged in rows, and are usually counted diagonally from one side of the body to the other.

Arizona elegans (Eastern Glossy Snake) occurs in the western United States and spends most of its time underground; coming out at night to forage on small mammals. If encountered, it may vibrate its tail in an attempt to fool the intruder into thinking the snake is a rattlesnake. Although this ploy may make the snake look dangerous, *Arizona elegans* is harmless and does not pose a threat to man.

Prelude No. 9 is written in an imitative style, with the opening theme being played in the treble by the b-flat clarinet, followed by the bass clarinet four measures later.

Brian S. Gray
26 February 2011

Serpentes Prelude No. 9

Arizona elegans

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$\text{♩} = 155$

Clarinet in B \flat

Bass Clarinet

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

11

16

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2

21

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

27

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

32

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

