

SEVEN PRELUDES FOR “MUSIC CAN SLEEP”

FOR PIERROT ENSEMBLE

by

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This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Music
in satisfaction of the dissertation requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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7 preludes for "Music can sleep"

(2019-2022)

for pierrot ensemble

Seven Preludes to “Music can sleep” (2019-2022)

The material was culled from sketches for four distinct abandoned projects, one of which was titled ‘Music can sleep.’ Eventually I became less interested in seeing a particular idea to fruition and more concerned with selecting and arranging from an archive of unfinished fragments. The principle criteria for selection included psychological potency and the music’s capacity to convey the mood of the moment in which they were written.

- i. fragment for maria 9/7/20
- ii. curtain 5/31/20
- iii. premonition / toy no. 1 11/1/19
- iv. dream 11/6/19
- v. punchline 8/11/21
- vi. song / toy no. 2 5/21/20
- vii. sprite 5/12/20

General:

cresc. from silence

A musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. Above the staff, a horizontal line with a small circle at the left end indicates a crescendo starting from silence. The staff contains seven notes, each with a diamond-shaped notehead. The notes are: a quarter note with a flat sign (3/4 flat), a quarter note with a flat sign (1/4 flat), a quarter note with a sharp sign (1/4 sharp), a quarter note with a sharp sign (1/4 sharp), a quarter note with a sharp sign (1/4 sharp), a quarter note with a sharp sign (1/4 sharp), and a quarter note with a sharp sign (1/4 sharp). The notes are positioned on the first line of the staff.

Flute:

Diamond notehead = play with much breath

A musical staff with a treble clef. The staff contains two notes, each with a diamond-shaped notehead. The notes are positioned on the first line of the staff.

Strings:

msp = molto sul ponticello

mst = molto sul tasto

glissandi begin immediately, last entire notated duration: do not articulate goal pitches

tremolos are unmeasured and as fast as possible

i. fragment for Maria
(9/7/20)

Elegiac $\text{♩} = 72$ *fleeting* (arco) msp → ord

poco accel. **a tempo** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 58$

Violoncello

l.h. pizz. 3

broadly

warm glow sul tasto

bow stay

IV

slower bow flat finger poco vib

(ord) msp (ord)

ppp < pp *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *pppp* *ppp*

ii. curtain
(5/31/20)

Tense $\text{♩} = 100$

blunt *light* *seufzen* *brutal, childish* *flickering*

Piano

mf *p* *mp* *pp* *f* *mf* *p*

Tense $\text{♩} = 100$

misterioso con sord. sempre mst sul. G

continuous searching gliss do not articulate arrival point

p *poco* *(as before)* *poco*

Violin

Violoncello

iii. premonition / toy no. 1
(11/1/19)

with black humor ♩ = 90

Flute
Clarinet in B♭
Piano
Violin
Violoncello

seufzen
mp < *mf* *p*
mp > *p* *mf* > *p* *mf*
p < *mp* *mf*
strange and mechanical
strange and mechanical
misterioso
fast, irregular trem.
muddy and indistinct
ppp
8^{vb}
< *poco* >
trem. ritardando - unsteady, irregular, uncertain
sempre Ped.
sempre una corda
lift pedal gradually
strange and mechanical
pp
mp *p* < *mp* *p* *mf*
strange and mechanical
mst
deliberate
and severe
nervous energy.
G very gradual
imperceptible raise in pitch

9 *(as before)* ♩ = 80

Fl.

Cl.

strange and mechanical

Pno. *mf* *p* *ppp (as before)* *8^{vb}*

senza Ped.
senza una corda

sempre Ped. *sempre una corda*

Vln. *3* *subito* ♩ = 80

Vc. *(as before)* *mf*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). It begins at measure 9. The Flute and Clarinet parts are mostly rests, with some notes in the final measure. The Piano part is the most active, starting with a *mf* dynamic and a *strange and mechanical* instruction. It features a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand. Dynamics change to *p* and then *ppp*. Performance instructions include *senza Ped.* and *senza una corda* in the first half, and *sempre Ped.* and *sempre una corda* in the second half. The Violin part has a triplet and a *subito* instruction. The Viola part has a triplet and a *mf* dynamic. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 80.

14

Fl. *as before, slightly heavier, weary*

Cl. *as before, **mf** slightly heavier, weary*

Pno.

Vln.

Vc. *as before, slightly heavier, weary*

molto espr.

mp < >

sempre Ped...

tr

20 ♩ = 72

Fl. *much breath ghostly* **rit.** ♩ = 60 **rit.** ♩ = 40

Cl. *fragile* **ppp**

Pno. *lift pedal gradually...* *dolce p* *pp* *ppp* *8va*

Vln. *sempre mst. heavy, weary, insistent* **rit.** ♩ = 60 **rit.** *searching...* ♩ = 40 *dolce* **p**

Vc. *dolce* **p**

iv. dream
(11/6/19)

Somber, objective ♩ = 50

quasi misterioso
still, always the same

Flute

Clarinet in B♭

mp

mp

Piano

firmly

mp

p

pp

tenderly

Somber, objective ♩ = 50

quasi misterioso,
poco taso
still, always the same

Violin

Violoncello

mp

mp

10

Fl.

Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*ephemeral
fragile unstable tone,
on threshold of breath*

*continuous gliss,
do not articulate arrival pitches
barely audible,
fragile unstable tone,
on threshold of breath*

firmly

ppp

pppp

p *pp* *mf* *mp* *ppp*

3 tr

3

8^{va} 15^{ma}

v. punchline
(8/9/21)

Wry, enigmatic ♩ = 66

whistle tones

*mouth over mouthpiece
warbling vocalizing*

Flute

Clarinet in B \flat

*firmly, child-like,
somewhat clumsy*

Piano

Wry, enigmatic ♩ = 66

ord —————> mst

continuous gliss

do not articulate arrival pitches

nervously

insistent, then receding

Violin

Violoncello

vi. song / toy no. 2
(5/20/20)

Surreal and naive ♩ = 100

A

Flute *quasi solo* *mp* *tenderly* *p*

Clarinet in B♭ *quasi echo* *ppp* *tenderly* *p*

Piano *pp*

Surreal and naive ♩ = 100

A

Violin *quasi echo* *ppp* *molto sul tasto* *tenderly* *p*

Violoncello *quasi echo* *ppp* *molto sul tasto* *tenderly* *p*

12 **B**

Fl.

Cl.

ethereal

ppp

Pno.

insistent

mp

Vln.

sul A

B

ord.

'weary, insistent

mp

Vc.

C *child-like*
p

D *assertive*
mp

as before

ppp *ppp* *ppp*

assertive
mp

as before

assertive
mp

as before

C *insistent, ethereal*
msp

D *assertive*
mp

as before

solo, mst
weary, vocalise
p

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The score is divided into two systems, each with a key signature change from C major to D major. The first system starts in C major (marked 'C') and ends in D major (marked 'D'). The second system also starts in C major (marked 'C') and ends in D major (marked 'D'). The Flute part begins with a 'child-like' character at a piano (*p*) dynamic, then becomes 'assertive' at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The Clarinet part features three very soft (*ppp*) passages followed by an 'assertive' (*mp*) section. The Piano part is mostly silent, with an 'assertive' (*mp*) section in the second system. The Violin part is silent until the second system, where it becomes 'assertive' (*mp*). The Viola part starts with an 'insistent, ethereal' (*msp*) character at a piano (*p*) dynamic, then becomes 'solo, mst weary, vocalise' at a piano (*p*) dynamic in the second system. Performance instructions like 'as before' appear at the end of several phrases. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

30

Fl.

Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

as before

as before

insistent

p

ppp

ppp

ppp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 30-34 in 4/4 time. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.).
- **Flute (Fl.):** Measure 30 has a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, and a quarter note A4. Measure 31 is a whole rest. Measure 32 has a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 33 has a quarter rest, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. Measure 34 has a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. Dynamic: *ppp*.
- **Clarinet (Cl.):** Measure 30 has a quarter note G#4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter rest. Measure 31 is a whole rest. Measure 32 has a quarter rest, a quarter note G#4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 33 has a quarter rest, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. Measure 34 has a quarter rest, a quarter note G#4, and a quarter note F#4. Dynamic: *ppp*.
- **Piano (Pno.):** Measure 30 has a quarter note G4 in the right hand and a quarter note G2 in the left hand. Measure 31 is a whole rest. Measure 32 has a quarter note G4 in the right hand and a quarter note G2 in the left hand. Measure 33 has a quarter note F#4 in the right hand and a quarter note F#2 in the left hand. Measure 34 has a quarter note E4 in the right hand and a quarter note E2 in the left hand. Dynamic: *as before*.
- **Violin (Vln.):** Measure 30 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter rest. Measure 31 is a whole rest. Measure 32 has a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 33 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. Measure 34 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Dynamic: *ppp*.
- **Viola (Vc.):** Measure 30 has a quarter rest, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2. Measure 31 has a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, and a quarter note C2. Measure 32 has a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, and a quarter note G1. Measure 33 has a quarter note F#1, a quarter note E1, and a quarter note D1. Measure 34 has a quarter note C1, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note A1. Dynamic: *p*.
- **Rehearsal Mark 30:** Located at the beginning of the Vc. staff, it includes the instruction *as before* and a dynamic marking *p*.
- **Rehearsal Mark 33:** Located at the beginning of the Vc. staff, it includes the instruction *insistent* and a dynamic marking *p*.
- **Rehearsal Mark 34:** Located at the end of the Vc. staff, it includes a dynamic marking *ppp*.

Fl. **E** *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* **F** *p* *mp* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *p* *mp* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mf*

Vln. **E** *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* **F** *mp* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *mp*

sing with mouth directly over tube
F *warbling tone*
tragi-comic

G (ord.) *molto sul tasto*
weary, croaking

57 **H**

Fl.

Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

This musical score page contains five staves of music, numbered 57 to 62. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The music is in 6/8 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). A rehearsal mark 'H' is placed at the beginning of measure 57. The Flute and Violin parts have a 'H' rehearsal mark at the start of the first measure. The Clarinet part has a sharp sign (#) above the notes in measures 57, 58, 59, and 60. The Piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands. The Flute, Clarinet, Violin, and Viola parts feature melodic lines with various articulations, including slurs and accents. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata in measure 62.

vii. sprite
(5/23/20)

Mischievous ♩ - 80

A

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

p *pp* *p* *<mp* *pp* *mp* *<p*

p *pp* *p* *<mp* *pp* *mp* *<p*

Piano

Mischievous ♩ - 80

A

Violin

Violoncello

p *pp* *p* *<mp* *pp* *mp* *<p*

p *pp* *p* *<mp* *pp* *mp* *<p*

B

13 14 15 16 17

Fl. *pp* *p* *poco* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*

Cl. *pp* *p* *poco* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p* *8^{vb}*

Vln. *pp* *p* *poco* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*

Vc. *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*