



Julie McCarthy

Nocturnal

For Solo Cello

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Program Notes

Nocturnal is a piece composed of abstract percussive sounds all of which reinforce the concept that nothing is truly silent. During a concert it is implied that the sounds are not music however, despite the absence of music, the sound is the music. The performer has a lot of freedom to use their own rhythms and melodies and chords with some limitations. This composition is graphically notated (notated with images) and written in such a way that it can never be heard the same way twice and is entirely up to the performer for their own interpretation to make this piece their own.

Performance Notes

The composition uses spatial notation of four seconds throughout each bar. Thus, each bar is representative of four seconds. The timing is very approximate however the guides will be there to help you throughout. Instructions on the form are featured in the next page.



Knocking: Figure 1

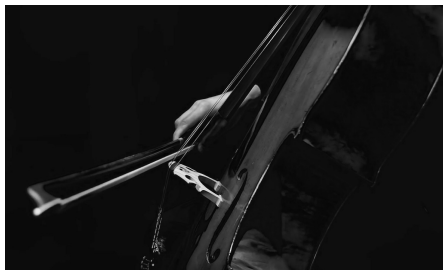
Knocking is indicated by the percussive A note. You hold your hand into a fist (like shown to the right) and knock on the body of the cello like you would a door. (Figure 1.)



Slap Slide: Figure 2

Slapping is indicated by the percussive A note except, this time it is better recommended that you use the palms of your hands to slightly hit the body of the cello and slide upwards creating somewhat of a squeaky sound (Figure 2.)

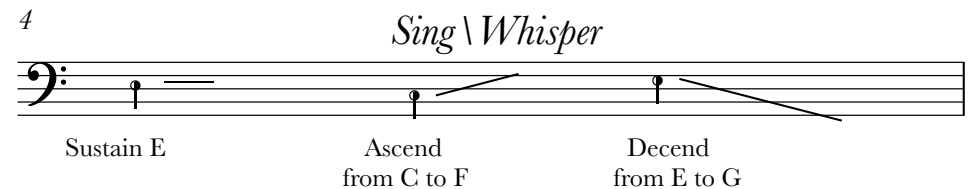
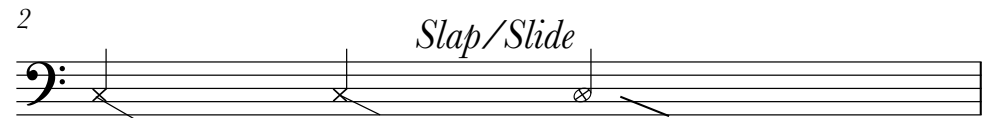
Bounce the bow on the string as quickly as indicated by the rhythm of the arrows. The note is located and indicated as C3 (Figure 3.)



Bouncing Bow: Figure 3

Sing on the note specified by the half-circle note head. The lines represent what pitches you must sustain, ascend, or descend.

Double Stops are indicated by the notes. the slides are indicated similar to the whispers except you slide up the neck with the same position.



Double stop A and E and then slide upwards like a gliss to C and G

Instructions:

player must follow form consecutively. However, player can repeat sections but not more than twice, if repeated, double the seconds between each cell. Between each cell the seconds between each are indicated

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1

11 *mf* *n* sul pont *mf* col lungo *mf* *p*

20 *pp* Position V cluster double stop within notes indicated by line

20 *f* sul pont *sfz* *f* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *n* *p* *n* *f* *mp*

30

2

35 *mf* hit slide down and up on cello body

35 *sfz* *f* *n*

41 assign pitches to given rhythm

3

45 *mf* 3 3

45 *sfz* *n*

assign rhythm to given pitches.

52 lines indicate approximately how long note is sustained.

4

mf

4

62

Musical staff for measures 62-74. The staff contains bass clef notation with various notes, rests, and articulation marks. The lyrics are written below the staff.

can t-t-t can_t t t can_t sleep sleep only in in in in in dreams

75

Musical staff for measures 75-80. The staff contains bass clef notation with various notes, rests, and articulation marks. A pink highlight is under the first measure of this system. The lyrics are written below the staff.

f sh V position block chords in the vicinity indicated sh

V position block chords
in the vicinity indicated

5

81

Musical staff for measures 81-90. The staff contains bass clef notation with various notes, rests, and articulation marks. A '3' is written above the first measure. The lyrics are written below the staff.

sh shshshsh fall asleep