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Soliloquy

Music composition, solo clarinet

Duration: Approximately five minutes

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Statement of Purpose:

Soliloquy is a musical work for solo clarinet composed in 2004. While the piece is meant to assume an improvisatory character in its performance, its compositional structure may be best characterized as a modification of the theme and variations form dating from the eighteenth century. The theme consists of a series of brief motives which are combined to form phrases; in each variation, the motives are manipulated through numerous means (e.g. transposition, rhythmic displacement, inversion) and recombined to form new musical material. Transitions between variations are continuous and at certain points, variations overlap to further obscure the overall form.

The melodic and harmonic language of this composition may be described as atonal or post-tonal. These terms are often used interchangeably to denote the absence of a central pitch (tonic) or hierarchical relationships among harmonies characteristic of music in the Western concert traditions of the seventeenth century through the early twentieth century. Abandonment of conventional tonality in concert music began when many composers of the early twentieth century such as Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) and Edgar Varèse (1883-1965) wrote works in which traditional relationships were not the primary organizing principle. Although *Soliloquy* was not conceived as being a part of any specific post-tonal tradition, it does present another alternative to traditional tonality in addition to those employed by composers of the last several decades.

SOLILOQUY

for B \flat Clarinet

Robert Tanner
(b. 1972)

Freely and pensively (♩ = 84-96)

f *ff* *mf*

6 *f* *mf*

12

17 *ff* *mf*

21 *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *flz.*

26 *mf*

30 *f* *flz.* *flz.*

34 *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

39

3

44

3

6

49

53

57

63

68

mf

p

3

> pp

72

< mf

sfz

f

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78 *mp* 3

Musical staff 78-82. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 78 starts with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, Bb4, and C5. Measure 79 has a half note D5. Measure 80 has a half note E5. Measure 81 has a half note F5. Measure 82 has a half note G5. A slur covers measures 79-82 with a crescendo hairpin. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is marked above measure 82.

83 *p* *f*

Musical staff 83-87. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 83 has a half note G4. Measure 84 has a half note A4. Measure 85 has a half note Bb4. Measure 86 has a half note C5. Measure 87 has a half note D5. A slur covers measures 83-87 with a crescendo hairpin. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is marked above measure 86.

88 *mf* 3 6

Musical staff 88-91. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 88 has a half note G4. Measure 89 has a half note A4. Measure 90 has a half note Bb4. Measure 91 has a half note C5. A slur covers measures 88-91 with a crescendo hairpin. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is marked above measure 90. A sixteenth-note figure is marked above measure 91.

92 *sub. p* 6

Musical staff 92-95. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 92 has a half note G4. Measure 93 has a half note A4. Measure 94 has a half note Bb4. Measure 95 has a half note C5. A slur covers measures 92-95 with a crescendo hairpin. A sixteenth-note figure is marked above measure 94.

96 *mf*

Musical staff 96-100. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 96 has a half note G4. Measure 97 has a half note A4. Measure 98 has a half note Bb4. Measure 99 has a half note C5. Measure 100 has a half note D5. A slur covers measures 96-100 with a crescendo hairpin. A sixteenth-note figure is marked above measure 98.

101 *f* 6

Musical staff 101-104. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 101 has a half note G4. Measure 102 has a half note A4. Measure 103 has a half note Bb4. Measure 104 has a half note C5. A slur covers measures 101-104 with a crescendo hairpin. A sixteenth-note figure is marked above measure 103.

105 3

Musical staff 105-109. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 105 has a half note G4. Measure 106 has a half note A4. Measure 107 has a half note Bb4. Measure 108 has a half note C5. Measure 109 has a half note D5. A slur covers measures 105-109 with a crescendo hairpin. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is marked above measure 106.

110 *mp* *f*

Musical staff 110-114. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 110 has a half note G4. Measure 111 has a half note A4. Measure 112 has a half note Bb4. Measure 113 has a half note C5. Measure 114 has a half note D5. A slur covers measures 110-114 with a crescendo hairpin. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is marked above measure 111.

Soliloquy

148 *a bit slower*

6 *fff* *p*

Musical staff 148-152. Starts with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The music features a melodic line with a sixteenth-note triplet (marked '6') and a dynamic shift from fortissimo (fff) to piano (p). The tempo marking 'a bit slower' is present.

153

3 *mf* *pp*

Musical staff 153-156. Features a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. Includes a triplet (marked '3') and a dynamic shift from mezzo-forte (mf) to pianissimo (pp).

157 *a tempo*

6 3 *mf*

Musical staff 157-161. Features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. Includes a sixteenth-note triplet (marked '6') and a dynamic marking of mezzo-forte (mf). The tempo marking 'a tempo' is present.

162

mf

Musical staff 162-166. Features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music continues with a melodic line and a dynamic marking of mezzo-forte (mf).

167

3 *pp*

Musical staff 167-171. Features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. Includes a triplet (marked '3') and a dynamic marking of pianissimo (pp).

172 *cresc. poco a poco*

3 3 3 3 3

Musical staff 172-175. Features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of triplets (marked '3') with a dynamic marking of 'cresc. poco a poco' (crescendo poco a poco).

176

6

Musical staff 176-177. Features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music features a sixteenth-note triplet (marked '6') and a dynamic marking of fortissimo (fff).

178

6 *fff*

Musical staff 178-182. Features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music features a sixteenth-note triplet (marked '6') and a dynamic marking of fortissimo (fff).