As if they were flowers with spinning blossoms

For B♭ Trumpet and Tenor Trombone

Desmond Clarke
Programme Note

The title of as if they were flowers with spinning blossoms is taken from the 1967 poem All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace by the American writer Richard Brautigan (1935-1984). The poem deals with the relationship between humans, computers and nature, and expresses a hope that new systems of organisation can bring humanity into a more harmonious relationship with itself and its environment. In this work, by treating the instruments as the medium within which the music takes place rather than using them to realise some sort of theoretical system (tonal or otherwise) I hope to engender a more sonically intimate relationship between the performer and the instrument, and the audience and the work.
Score in C

Notes on performance:

Each bar should last approximately one second, each system ten. However this does not by any means predicate the use of a stopwatch.

Both players require a straight mute.

Stave Layout:

For the majority of the work each instrument is notated in two independent dimensions, a pitch and the physical configuration of the instrument. The indicated valve and slide positions must be observed, however the pitch-space represents the note that the embouchure should attempt to produce – this will lead to pitches occurring outside the indicated band; these should not be avoided or prevented. Likewise any accidental sound resulting from the notated techniques should be embraced and explored.

Notation:

- ♦: As short as possible
- R: Rolled 'R' – flutter tongued.
- T: Trigger. Trombone only.
- S.V.: Spit valve. Trumpet only.
- C: Half-valve. Trumpet only.

Non-standard Clefs:

- : Vowel-space – air tone through instrument, modulated by vowel indicated. IPA a - i.
- : Undefined pitch-space – two lines defining 'high' and 'low'.
- t: Tongue-ram.

Not as high/low as possible, pitch contour must be observed.

Score in C
Duration c. 4'30"

Score in C
take straight mute