Still Night

for soprano, clarinet, double bass and harp

Jia Chai

Duration c. 11 minutes

2016.8
PERFORMANCE NOTES

Score in C

General marks:

Pitches in the box should be repeated freely.

Vibrato techniques:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0);
  \end{tikzpicture} From less to more to less
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0);
  \end{tikzpicture} From more to less
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0);
  \end{tikzpicture} From less to more
\end{itemize}

Clarinet:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0);
  \end{tikzpicture} Breathy sound, more breath than tone
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0); \fill[black] (0.5,0) circle (0.1);
  \end{tikzpicture} Breathy, but with clearly defined pitch
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0); \fill[black] (0,0) circle (0.1); \fill[black] (1,0) circle (0.1);
  \end{tikzpicture} Complex multiphonic: choose multiphonics allowing a smooth transition into the given pitch.
\end{itemize}

Harp:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0); \draw[thick] (2,0) -- (3,0); \fill[black] (1.5,0) circle (0.1);
  \end{tikzpicture} Playing with palm
\end{itemize}

Soprano:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \begin{tikzpicture}
    \draw[thick] (0,0) -- (1,0); \draw[thick] (1,0) -- (2,0); \fill[black] (1,0) circle (0.1);
  \end{tikzpicture} Speaking
\end{itemize}
Singing as high as possible, using Chinese folk singing technique: very thin sound by nasal.

Pronunciation of phonetic symbols:

Explanation is in revived Pronunciation English unless otherwise stated.

[u]: 'u' as in 'who'       [i]: 'i' as in 'middle'
[en]: 'en' as in 'end'      [a]: 'a' as in 'father' [o]: 'o' as in 'boy'
[da]: 'da' as in 'shoulder'  [sh]: 'sh' as in 'dish'

★ S.P. = sul pont.        S.T. = sul tasto.        N. = normal.

I extremely grateful to Britten Pears Foundation for commissioning this project and to the New Dots ensemble (London).

(JC)
Still Night

Score in C

Jia Chai

[Soprano]

A [s = 60] very slow, sadly
Spoken with a breathy quality

[Clarinet in B♭]

bowed, non-measured tremolo, which begins as fast as possible then decelerates dramatically.

[Double Bass]

[sul A]

[p] [ppp] [p] [ppp] [mp]

[Harp]

bissigliando

[S.]

[Cl.]

[bissigliando]

[Db.]

[bowed, non-measured tremolo, which begins as fast as possible]

[H.]

bissigliando
bowed, non-measured tremolo, which begins as fast as possible then decelerates dramatically.