Had You Done So Before, Perhaps You Would Still Be Free

for quintet

Kier Hall
Had You Done So Before,  
Perhaps You Would Still Be Free

for flute, clarinet, vibraphone, violin and cello  
Duration: c. 7 minutes

A songbird, confined in a cage and hung outside of a window, had a way of singing when all other birds were asleep. When a curious bat asked why, the bird explained “It was when I was singing in the daylight that I was caught and since then I have only sung at night”. To which the bat replied “Had you done so before, perhaps you would still be free.”

Aesop

Aesop’s fable provides the introduction to this work, within which the characters and events are developed.

Guidelines for Performance

General
The loudest dynamic this piece reaches is $fff$. This should be played as loud as possible. A tuplet marked 5:4 indicates that 5 notes should be played in the time of 4.

Crescendo dal niente — Diminuendo al niente

There are parts of this piece that require improvisation. The performer can choose how to approach these sections but the pitches defined within boxes must be used. When the box has a line through it, these pitches must be avoided. For example:

Use the pitches in this mode to improvise:  
Do not use the pitches in this mode to improvise:

Flute
Trill speed should generally be proportional to the dynamic marking (louder=faster) unless otherwise stated.

Clarinet
Trill speed should generally be proportional to the dynamic marking (louder=faster) unless otherwise stated.  
The slap tongue technique is notated with $x$ noteheads.

Vibraphone
A vibraphone with a tremolo motor is required. The motor’s speed is changed throughout the piece. Dead strokes (marked with $x$ noteheads) are to be played over the nodes.

Violin and Cello

$m.s.p.$ Molto sul ponticello  
$s.p.$ Sul ponticello  
$p.s.p.$ Poco sul ponticello

$ord.$ Ordinary bowing position  
$p.s.t.$ Poco sul tasto  
$s.t.$ Sul tasto  
$m.s.t.$ Molto sul tasto

Bartók pizzicato
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Part I - Confinement

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

Vibrphone

Violin

Violoncello

\( \text{\textcopyright \textregistered} \)
Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vln.

Vc.

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vln.

Vc.

Part IV

\[ j = 120 \]