

Ex umbra...

for clarinet in Bb

Cameron McArthur
2023

Composer's Note

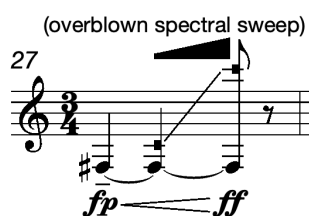
'Ex umbra...' is a piece about shadows, shifting perspectives, and things obscured from view. It was created as part of the 2023 Psappha *Composing For...* series. The piece is the first in a trio of related works: it precedes *'afterglow I'*, for clarinet, cello, and piano, (premiered by *Terra Invisus* in spring 2023), as well as *'afterglow II'*, for Pierrot ensemble and percussion. All of the works in this set relate to a common musical line, which influences almost every passage of music. Each of the works stand on their own – they follow their own path, which depends on particularities of shape, motion, and desires for musical momentum, but they all contain shadowy traces of a mutual core.

Performance Notes

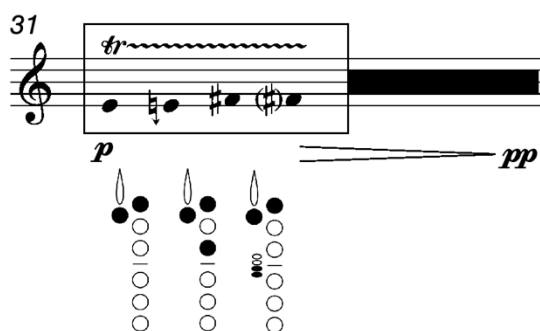
Microtonal/Alternate fingerings – Where fingerings are provided, microtonal discrepancies are encouraged. Notes marked with a star (*) should be achieved using the fingering below:



Overblown spectral sweep – play an overblown multiphonic, and then ‘sweep’ up through the different partials.



Rapid double trills - start with the fundamental fingering (the first in each box) and then alternate the other two in each example in order to produce the four given pitches. Boxed notation indicates that these actions are to be repeated freely, at the performer’s discretion.



Ex umbra...

for Dov Goldberg and Psappha

Transposing Score
(Clarinet at reading pitch)

Cameron McArthur

Open, but purposeful (♩=c.60)

Clarinet in B♭



Skittish (♩=68)



(overblown spectral sweep)



*N.B. starred notes use an alternate fingering - see performance notes

B

Duration of each boxed section is at the performer's discretion
 Rest durations steadily decrease as dynamic swells increase:
 Create a building sense of momentum towards section C

Frozen time

rapid double finger trills

31

p *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

c. 3" c. 3" c. 3"

37

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *f* *mp*

c. 2" c. 2" c. 2"

43

mf *f* *mf* *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf* *ff*

c. 2" c. 1" c. 1"

51

p *mf* *p*

53

fp *flz.*

55 **C** Frantic (♩=c.152)

f *ff*

57

f *ff*

59

mp *f* *p* *f*

61

6 *6* *6*

63

ff *pp*

67

f *ff*

69

rall. *pp*

D Fragile, fleeting ($\text{♩} = c.68$)

74 *mf* *pp*

76 *mf* *pp*

78 *mf* *p*

80 *pp* *pp* *mf* *p* **allow resonance to decay*

82 *mf* *pp* *mp*

84 *pp*

86 *mp* *pp*

88 *p* *pp* *ppp* *gradually increase air in sound norm. → 75% air 25% pitch* *dying away*