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Sonata

for flute or soprano recorder

1991

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SONATA FOR FLUTE (OR SOPRANO RECORDER) (1991)

by

Elizabeth R. Austin

Duration: 14:45 ca

PROGRAM

The political upheavals during the time of the Gulf War (and sadly relevant over a decade later) may well have exerted a subconscious influence on this image of the first movement: A caged bird, beating its wings in desperation, sings all the while. In addition, one also hears a disjunct version of a nostalgic World War I (*“Ich hat’ einen Kameraden”*) song about a fallen comrade; this juxtaposition against the futile attempts at ‘winged flight’ provides, in essence, the duality of the sonata principle.

The variation treatment of the Gregorian chant, *“Alma redemptoris mater”* in the second movement deals with the cross-pollination of the arpeggiated major triad of the chant theme with freer lines. The fulcrum of this central movement yields to the concluding, persevering tonal phrase. The third movement is inspired by the Chinese proverb, “Keep a green bough in your heart and a singing bird shall come”. A final catharsis is left open, however, as the flutist sings/plays a phrase, hopefully questioning.....”redemptoris”....., before the music breaks off.

PERFORMANCE NOTES
for
Sonata for Flute (1991) Duration: 14:45
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1. c.v. : con vibrato
s.v. : senza vibrato
2. Dynamic markings can be freely interpreted by performer.
3. Wind vibrato to be used unless otherwise noted.
4. The duration of rests is indicated by following graphics:
 - ⌒ : short pause
 - △ : slightly longer pause
 - ⌒ : fermata of medium duration
 - ⌒ : long fermata
5. First Movement: 3 different tempi: p. 2 ff. (a musical collage)
 1. very free, serene in tempo, with expressive pauses (sehr frei, im ruhigen Tempo, mit aussagestarken Pausen)
 2. tempo primo: as in the initial theme, p. 1 (bezugnehmend auf das Anfangsthema)
 3. quote from “Ich hat’ einen Kameraden”, smooth, metric, melodic (metrisch, gleichmässiges ruhiges Tempo)
6. Musical gestures such as the ‘weeping descending third’ unify the movements; performer is to play these figurations in a similar manner throughout the piece.

Sonata for Flute (or Soprano Recorder)

I. A caged bird (ein eingesperrter Vogel)

Elizabeth R. Austin

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 168$

mf

7

11

13

16

mp

19

poco rit.

21 *flz.*

poco

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$ *cantabile*

mp

25 *mf* playfully (spielhaft) increasingly bright (ausspielend) tempo primo

31 = c. 72

37 *poco* *f* *mf*

43 *mp* *rallentando* *p* *mf* *freely, improvisational (frei)* *c.v.*

46

1 (see end notes: p.6)

49

flz. flz. 51

at start, overblow the octave
(anfangs in die Oktave überblasen)

senza vibrato (immer entfernt)

con vibrato

C.V.

flz. flz. flz.

mf *mp* *pp* *f* *mf* *mp*

55

S.V.

C.V.

2

1

3

flz. overblow (überblasen) (Kameraden...)

mf *mf* *mp*

61

far off (entfernt)

1

vibrato

3

finger vibrato

1 + 3

pp *mf* *p* *ff* *p*

tongue without utterance
(Zungenlaut ohne Ton)

67

excited

2

3

1

C.V.

S.V.

mf *mp* *mf*

73 3 "loses the thread..."
(..den Faden verloren) hold back
(halten Sie zurück)

76 *mf*

79 3 *mp* *mp* cantabile

85 3 not fast (nicht schnell) 2 *p* sub. *mf* *mp*

86 stringendo

91 *f* 96

97

f *ff*

103

f

109

mp sub. breath pressure (mit Atemdruck)

115

f

121

3

vibrato

slower (langsamer)

126

explosive

(tongue only)

mf

mp

mf

127

10-12" ca: (ad lib)

simile

niente

f

mixed with high, sharp tones ad lib.
(mit hohen Pfeiftönen gemischt. allmählich immer mehr abschwächen)

End Notes: *3 different tempi, p. 2 (a musical collage)

- 1 very free, serene in tempo, with expressive pauses
(sehr frei, im ruhigen Tempo, mit aussagestarken Pausen)
- 2 tempo primo: as in initial theme, p. 1
(bezugnehmend auf das Anfangsthema)
- 3 Quote from "Ich hat' einen Kameraden":
smooth and metric, melodic
(metrisch, gleichmässiges ruhiges Tempo)

II. "Alma redemptoris mater" ("Loving Mother of the Redeemer")

Freely ♩ = 80

sotto voce (1st mvmt.)

cantabile sempre

poco

9

11

senza vibrato (chantlike)

con vibrato
16

17

21

mf

24

26

chant

30 *mf* *p* sub. *mp* *mf* flz. flz.

Musical staff 30-35. Measures 30-31 are in 3/4 time, measure 32 is in 4/4, and measures 33-35 are in 3/4. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics and articulations. A large watermark 'Merubal' is visible across the page.

36 *mp* collage... 1st mvmt. *mp*

Musical staff 36-41. Measures 36-37 are in 4/4, measure 38 is in 4/4, and measures 39-41 are in 3/8. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics and articulations. A large watermark 'Merubal' is visible across the page.

42 *piacevole* *portato* *not fast* *lacrimosa* *p* 46 ("Kameraden...") (chant)

Musical staff 42-48. Measures 42-43 are in 3/8, measure 44 is in 7/8, and measures 45-48 are in 6/8. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics and articulations. A large watermark 'Merubal' is visible across the page.

49 *mp* 51 *sf* not too fast: melodic

Musical staff 49-54. Measures 49-50 are in 4/4, measure 51 is in 4/4, and measures 52-54 are in 4/4. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics and articulations. A large watermark 'Merubal' is visible across the page.

56 *mp*

62 *poco rit.*

66 *mf*

69 *mf*

71 *poco accel.*

76 *a tempo*
chantlike, lyrical

p sub.

81

remain still; theme has
broken off (bleiben Sie still)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a single melodic line, spanning measures 56 to 81. The notation is in treble clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 69. The score includes various musical markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano) at measure 56, *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) at measure 62, *mf* (mezzo-forte) at measure 66, *poco accel.* (poco accelerando) at measure 69, *a tempo* and 'chantlike, lyrical' at measure 76, *p* (piano) and 'sub.' (subito) at measure 76, and 'remain still; theme has broken off (bleiben Sie still)' at measure 81. The melody features a variety of note values, including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. There are also some complex rhythmic patterns, such as a sixteenth-note run in measure 66. The score is marked with a large, diagonal watermark reading 'Berndt al.com'.

III. A singing bird* (ein singender Vogel)

very calm but intense
(sehr ruhig aber lebendig) ·———— = ca. 1"

flz. chant... slow trem.

5 take breath away melodic
(Atemdruck wegnehmen)

10 11

15 16

* "Keep a green bough in your heart and a singing bird will come." (Chinese)
(Bewahre einen grünen Zweig in Deinem Herzen und ein Singvogel wird dort landen.)

21

declamatory

mf

p

26

dolce

f

mf

urgent (dringend)

dolce

mp

31

delicate (zart)

mf

falling away, slower, weaker
(sehr abfallend, immer undeutlicher,
tempo immer langsamer)

revive..(richten Sie sich
wieder auf)

35

stacc., intensivo

15"-20"

pitches gradually sink
(die Tonhöhe absinken lassen, murmeln)

not too many overblowings (nicht zu viel Quierschöne)

36

'fall apart'
(sinken Sie in sich
zusammen)

p

pp

ppp

f

p

The first system of the musical score is written on a single staff in 3/8 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the mood is 'Andantino'. The score starts at measure 38, marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first measure of the system (measure 38) contains a half note G4 (F#) and a quarter note A4 (G#), with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The second measure (measure 39) contains a half note B4 (A#) and a quarter note C5 (B#), with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The third measure (measure 40) contains a half note D5 (C#) and a quarter note E5 (D#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The fourth measure (measure 41) contains a half note F5 (E#) and a quarter note G5 (F#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The fifth measure (measure 42) contains a half note A5 (G#) and a quarter note B5 (A#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The sixth measure (measure 43) contains a half note C6 (B#) and a quarter note D6 (C#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The seventh measure (measure 44) contains a half note E6 (D#) and a quarter note F6 (E#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The eighth measure (measure 45) contains a half note G6 (F#) and a quarter note A6 (G#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The ninth measure (measure 46) contains a half note B6 (A#) and a quarter note C7 (B#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The tenth measure (measure 47) contains a half note D7 (C#) and a quarter note E7 (D#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The eleventh measure (measure 48) contains a half note F7 (E#) and a quarter note G7 (F#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The twelfth measure (measure 49) contains a half note A7 (G#) and a quarter note B7 (A#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The thirteenth measure (measure 50) contains a half note C8 (B#) and a quarter note D8 (C#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The fourteenth measure (measure 51) contains a half note E8 (D#) and a quarter note F8 (E#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The fifteenth measure (measure 52) contains a half note G8 (F#) and a quarter note A8 (G#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The sixteenth measure (measure 53) contains a half note B8 (A#) and a quarter note C9 (B#), with a dynamic marking of *f*. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

44

poco

46

p

p

f

flz.

flz.

tr (labium)

chirping, excited
(pfeifend, aufgeregt)

51

mp

pp

mp

poco

OSSIA: sing (Kameraden...) and
blow simultaneously;
man: 8ve lower

56 *espressivo* , *measured, shining..*

f ...re - demp - tor - is...