

Impromptu

Commissioned by the CMV Concert Series

Oboe & vibraphone

Duration c. 4'

A. Keegan-Bole
23.04.15

Programme note

This piece's structure is free and through-composed and whilst the performance is not of an improvisatory nature the writing process was somewhat *Impromptu* - writing swathes of music quickly and picking out chunks of material to refine, composite and build into piece.

The music begins with a solo exposition for oboe featuring angular, brittle figures. Over time the vibraphone joins in but there is not a straightforward relationship between the parts. The vibraphone begins as an extension of the oboe sound but quickly the parts separate and continue with a strange, ever-changing relationship. We're never quite sure which instrument is leading... at points it may be unclear if they are playing together at all!

AKB (programme note from premier performance 23rd April 2015)

Performance note

The score stipulates 'tempo X' for the vibraphone vibrato. This should be worked out in rehearsal to match the oboist's natural, comfortable vibrato speed – though it should *not* be a fast vibrato. In the piece the oboe will match their vibrato speed to that of the vibraphone so the vibraphone speed should be set in advance of performance and then motors turned on at bar 31.

Impromptu

A. Keegan-Bole

♩=63

Oboe

f
express.

poco

Vibraphone

Ob.

3 *p* 3 *f*

poco *mp*

Ob.

3 *pp* *p* 3 3 3 *f* *poco* 5 3

accel.

♩=84

Ob.

5 3 3 3 3

ff *pp* *pp*

molto vib. → senza ord.

Vib.

bow harmonic

pp

Red.

Ob.

p 5 3 *pp* *pp*

Vib.

pp *pp*

25

Ob. *mf* 5 5 3 *< f > mf* 5 *bright but warm*

Vib. *pp* *mp* *p*

mall. (med/hard)

28

Ob. *p* 5 *f* *p* 5 *f* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Vib. *mp* *mp* *mp*

bow (LH) *Motor on tempoX half turn =* *mall. (RH) (soft/med)*

mp *(just under oboe)*

32

Ob. *molto vib. match vibraphone vibrato speed* *mf* *p*

Vib. *p* *mp* *pp*

bow *mall.*

timing free/loose

35

Ob. *poco* *ppp* *mp*

Vib. *pppp* *pppp* *pppp* *pppp*

[^] vibraphone leads - timing free *molto vib. match vibraphone* *l.v.* *soft rubber mallets warm, round sound but with sense of attacks (maintain some definition, not a 'wash')*

pppp *barely heard*

37 *bend slightly* , 3

Ob. *p* *mf*
light, airy
express.

Vib. *poco a poco cresc.* (reaching forte at bar 53), hairpins show swells within general dynamic increase *poco*

39 5 3 *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

Vib. *poco* *poco*

41 *molto vib.* (match to vibraphone vibrato speed)

Ob. *mf* *f*

Vib. *poco* *poco*

43 *mp* 5 *poco*

Ob. *mp* *poco*

Vib. *poco*

4

45

Ob.

moltissimo vibrato (very wide)
 match speed to vibraphone → slower → very slow vibrato (but still wide)

f

Vib.

48

Ob.

f → *mp*

molto accel.

Vib.

53

Ob.

pp

Motor OFF *hard mallet (bright)*

f

Red.

$\text{♩} = 126$

Vib.

57

Ob.

p → *pp (pos)* → *ppp*

med/soft mallets (warmer)

f *mf*

Red.

express. - dynamic swells as appropriate
vibraphone is most prominent part until around bar 66/67
legato - pedal as required to the end

Vib.

molto accel.

62

Ob.

Vib.

ppp

ppp

poco

poco

begin to make sound dryer

toward staccato →

** accelerating triplet figure leads smoothly into the regular, double tempo crotchets)*

(double time)

c. ♩=168

66

Ob.

Vib.

f

f

p (*meet lower line dynamic - now as one*)

deadstick - as dry as possible

p

legato - pedal as required

mf

rit.

72

Ob.

Vib.

pp

ppp

p