

Through Night

for flute, clarinet, violin, and cello

(2 0 1 6)

by Jacob Beranek

A S C A P

PROGRAM NOTES

Through Night was composed for the 2016 Young Artists Summer Program at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA, where it was premiered on August 6, 2016. The piece can be thought of as a journey that occurs throughout one night. As the light fades and darkness grows, so does the texture of the music. But, as the daylight slowly dawns, the music begins to rewind itself until concluding as it began. The piece carries the performers and listeners through many different emotions and scenarios, leaving it up to each individual's imagination as to what is taking place in this nocturnal sojourn.

As the cello begins with eerie harmonic *glissandi*, the violin adds to the texture with wispy artificial harmonics until the clarinet enters with the first theme. Slowly gaining energy, the piece builds up to the first of many climaxes. The violin powerfully presents an inversion of the first theme until the clarinet and the flute playfully transition into the next section. Here, in 5/8 meter, we may see a bit of a lively dream or perhaps a midnight adventure. The violin and clarinet exchange a jaunty melody until the cello interrupts, leading into a beautiful, *espressivo* melody for the flute. Conversing with the cello, the flute falls away as the cello heatedly debates with the violin. The violin, however, restates the melody passionately with the flute, leaving room for one last solo comment by the cello before another climax. Suddenly, *col legno* and key clicks lead to familiar territory from the first section. This time, however, the entire first theme is presented in retrograde (backwards). The piece rapidly gains energy and rushes excitedly until the flute carries us into a peaceful ending, floating above harmonics from the strings.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Flute: Notes with X noteheads (m. 38-41, 90-92) signify key clicks. The performer should slap the keys of their instrument while at the same time blowing lightly through it. The result should be a percussive attack with a faint pitch remaining, almost a *pizzicato*-like sound.

Clarinet: Notes with X noteheads (m. 38-41, 90-92, 110) signify slap tonguing. The performer should use their tongue to create suction on the reed, and when the suction is released, the result should be a percussive, popping sound with little pitch.

Violin and Cello: The term *col legno with hair* (m. 86-93) is used to signify striking the strings with the bow at an angle, such that the notes receive the percussive attack of *col legno battuto* but also have definite pitches that ring after the notes are struck.

Cello: Measures 1-12 should be performed as a continuous *glissando*, lightly sliding a finger up and down the D string to create natural harmonics. The performer should "accel." from hitting three nodes in m. 1, to four in m. 2, six in m. 3, six in m. 4, and nine in m. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. At m. 10, the performer should "rit." so as to play six nodes in that measure, then four nodes in the following measure.

The ♩ symbol (m. 40, 43, 46, 53, 111) represents a forceful *pizzicato* ("Bartók pizz.") in which the string rebounds off the fingerboard, creating a snapping sound. Specifically in m. 43, the performer should create an octave-long *glissando* after snapping the low F, without ever plucking the high F.

Through Night

Jacob Beranek
ASCAP

With anticipation (♩ = c. 72)

Flute

Clarinet in B \flat

Violin

Cello

freely, quasi accel.

sul D

pp

3 sim.

6

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

(sul D)

pp

3

10

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

(sul D)

quasi rit.

p

mp

pp

p

pp

3

3

3

3

4

14 *poco accel.*

Fl. *mf* *mp* *f*

B \flat Cl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln. *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *pizz.*

17 *Slightly faster* (♩ = c. 80)

Fl. *mf* *f*

B \flat Cl. *mf* *f*

Vln. *mf* *f* *fp*

Vc. *f* *mf* *f* *p*

arco *sul pont.* *sul D*

A

20 *accel.*

Fl. *mp* *f* *mp*

B \flat Cl. *mp* *f*

Vln. *mp* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

pizz. *arco* *sul pont.* *pizz.*