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**Title**

Elegy

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# ELEGY

For oboe and bassoon

2017

*Emily Joy Sullivan*

# NOTES

“Elegy” was written based on melodic fragments used in an elegiac duet I wrote over 10 years ago for a dear, departed friend. I wanted to rework the old piece into a more mature, fully-developed one that would have a more narrative shape and more truly mournful qualities. I envisioned someone calling out to her beloved departed across time; what would be the sound of souls crying out through an incomprehensible distance of time, space, and mortality? The oboe was perfectly suited to this expressive task, and the duet embraces the sheer expressivity of its timbre, combined with the hauntingly lyric quality of the bassoon's upper register.

At the beginning of the piece, the oboe calls out for her departed, longingly; memory provides temporary reprieve, and we hear from her departed; but though we hear the two entities reaching out for one another, they can never quite reconnect. Ultimately, the bassoon recedes from view, reducing back to a single, resigned note and then nothingness; the oboe is left alone.

Score, ca. 4'

# ELEGY

Emily Joy Sullivan (b. 1987)

Oboe

Bassoon

$\text{♩} = 48$  Pained

*pp*  $\text{mp}$  *pp*  $\text{mp}$  *p*

5

remain slow - do not speed up

rit.  $\text{♩} = 76$  (Strict time)

*mf* *p*

9

*pp*

*poco rubato and accelerando*

*p*  $\text{mp}$

*a tempo*

*pp* *p*  $\text{mp}$

13

Gingerly

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp* *ppp*

A

♩ = 40 Searching  
*molto rubato*

18

*pp* *mp*  
*molto rubato*

*p*

*mp p sub. pp ppp mp*

*pp p ppp sub. p mp pp sub. ppp*

B

*Poco Accelerando* ———— ♩ = 56 Agitated

22

*mp*

*mf*

*pp sub. ppp*

*mf pp sub. ppp*

26

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

*mf*

*Cantabile*

29

*p dolce*

*Cantabile*

*p dolce*

ELEGY

32

Musical notation for measures 32-33. Treble and bass staves in 4/4 time. Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and ties.

34

Piu Mosso ♩ = 60  
Warmly

Musical notation for measures 34-35. Treble and bass staves in 4/4 time. Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and ties, and a triplet of eighth notes. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and ties, and a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *ff* and *p*. The tempo is marked *Piu Mosso* with a quarter note equal to 60, and the performance instruction is *Warmly*.

36

Ritardando ----- A tempo

Musical notation for measures 36-37. Treble and bass staves in 5/4 time. Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and ties. Dynamics include *f*. The tempo changes from *Ritardando* to *A tempo*.

38

Molto Rit. ----- A tempo

Musical notation for measures 38-41. Treble and bass staves in 4/4 time. Treble staff has a melodic line with slurs and ties. Bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and ties. Dynamics include *fff*, *mp sub.*, *pp*, and *p sub.*. The tempo changes from *Molto Rit.* to *A tempo*. The performance instruction *Almost no sound emerging* is written above the bass staff in the final measure.

ELEGY

42 C  
 ♩ = 64 *Doloroso*

*ppp* *p*

47 *Piu Mosso* ♩ = 76 *p*

*Vibrato*  
*Non vibrato*  
*if needed*

52

57 ♩ = 64 *Slower*

*ppp* *p*  
*p*

62

*mf* *ppp*  
*ppp*