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impatience

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# impatience

*for piano trio*

J. ZHU (2019)

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

This piece is about breath and internal study. Each performer has a candle (mental or real) in front of them, where their directed exhale can flicker the flame. There is no concert score – there are separate parts for violin, cello, and piano because each plays at their own pace, though generally aware of where the other performers are in the score, with two exceptions – everyone blows out their candle (can be a conceptual candle, if a real candle is not available) simultaneously and everyone ends the piece at the same time. The timing of each cell is variable – allow time for the material to settle before moving on.

There are equivalencies between tempi, breath, and movement.

### Bowing and Breath:

up bow = inhale

down bow = exhale

### Dynamics and Rate of breathing:

*fff* ~ *hyperventilating*

*ff* ~ *athletic*

*f* ~ *deliberate*

*mf* ~ *measured*

*mp* ~ *natural*

*p* ~ *calm*

*pp* ~ *meditative*

*ppp* ~ *intentionally pushing the boundary of comfort*

**Violin:** The set of notes inside brackets are the bank of notes from which the left hand trills according to the flicker of the candle flame. Similarly, col legno battuto, rhythmically and harmonically, according to the flicker of the candle flame, exploring vertically along the fingerboard.

**Cello:** Tremolo between regular and harmonic pressure according to the flicker of the candle. Start the glissando at the bridge and continuously trill even if not sounding during inhales.

**Piano:** Silently depress diamond notes for the sustain. Freely arpeggiate any single or group of notes from the selection of notes during exhales, according to the flicker of the candle. In the lowest bass register, tap inside of the piano with your right hand rhythmically and horizontally according to the flicker of the candle.

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J. ZHU (2019)

Violin

The score is written for violin and consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features two measures of music with notes on the third line (III) and third space (s.p.). Above the staff are markings 'V' and a square symbol. The instruction 'regulate breath from excited to calm' is written below the staff, with dynamics *f* and *p* connected by a wedge. The second staff continues with notes on the second line (II) and second space (s.p.), with instructions 'repeat or retrograde' and 'individual worlds'. Dynamics *p*, *f*, and *p* are indicated. The third staff starts with a note on the fourth line (IV) and includes instructions 'repeat or retrograde' and 'irregular hocket'. Dynamics *p*, *ff*, and *pp* are shown. The fourth staff has notes on the first line (I) and first space (s.p.), with instructions 'bow tailpiece' and 'col legno battuto'. A circular arrow above the staff is labeled 'm.s.p.' and 'm.s.t.'. Below the staff are markings '(I) II (III)'. The fifth staff begins with the instruction 'meandering, lost experiment harmonically along fingerboard with bow' and dynamics *pp* and *f*. It includes notes on the first line (I) and first space (s.p.), with instructions 'repeat or retrograde, slowly align' and dynamics *f*, *p*, and *fff*. An upward-pointing arrow at the end of the staff is labeled 'blow out candle simultaneously (dead stop)'. The final staff has notes on the third line (III) and third space (s.p.), with the instruction 'like a haunting in the dark, end together' and dynamics *ppp*. Below this staff is the marking '½ m.s.t. (midpoint)'. The score uses various musical notations including slurs, ties, and dynamic wedges.

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J. ZHU (2019)

Cello

V □

light bow pressure wispy

*mf* *mp*

ad. lib. ad. lib.

repeat or retrograde individual worlds

*p* *f* *p*

*gliss*

continuously glissando trill up fingerboard using harmonic pressure, but make bow contact only on exhale

*pp* *f*

repeat or retrograde irregularly

*p* *ff* *pp*

repeat or retrograde slowly align

*f* *p* *fff*

blow out candle simultaneously (dead stop)

V □

like a haunting in the dark, end together

*ppp*

m.s.p. m.s.l.

# impatience

J. ZHU (2019)

Piano

15

ad. lib. tremolo flicker using all fingers

*ppp* *pp*

fast to slow breathing

*f* *p*

inhale exhale hold breath

inhale exhale inhale exhale

ad. lib. ad. lib.

*Sost. Red.*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The first measure features a piano introduction with a tremolo flourish. The second measure is a long note with a dynamic range from *f* to *p*, marked with breathing instructions. The accompaniment consists of two staves with diamond-shaped ornaments.

repeat or retrograde individual worlds

*p* *f* *p*

*b* ad. lib. *b* ad. lib.

inhale exhale inhale exhale

repeat or retrograde irregular hocket

*p* *ff* *pp*

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth measures. The third measure has a dynamic range from *p* to *f* to *p* and includes breathing instructions. The fourth measure has a dynamic range from *p* to *ff* to *pp*. The accompaniment continues with diamond-shaped ornaments.

tap piano strings with four fingers in a random walk according to candle flicker

inhale exhale inhale exhale

meandering, lost *pp*  $\triangle$  *f*

ad. lib. inhale exhale inhale exhale ad. lib.

Diagram showing six diamond-shaped notes on a staff, with three groups of three notes each, connected by a horizontal line with upward-pointing tick marks.

repeat or retrograde slowly align

*f*  $\triangle$  *p*  $\triangleleft$  *fff* ↑

blow out candle simultaneously (let ring)

ad. lib. tremolo flicker using all fingers

*ppp* *pp*

inhale exhale hold breath

like a haunting in the dark, end together *ppp*

Diagram showing six diamond-shaped notes on a staff, with three groups of two notes each, connected by a horizontal line with upward-pointing tick marks.