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Title

Records of a Life

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James Chan

Records of a Life

2019

for 8 instruments

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Instrumentation

Flute
B \flat Clarinet

Suspended Cymbal

Piano

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello

for 8 instruments

Performance Notes

Score in C

Dynamic markings in quotation marks indicate the force with which certain techniques are to be executed, and does not necessarily reflect the actual dynamic.

Breath sounds are notated with triangular note head

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

First performed by the No Dice Collective conducted by Joe Chesterman-March
on 7/12/2019 at the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester

Programme Note

It is largely thanks to Liana Burgess, Anthony Burgess' second wife's effort that there is such a complete record of Anthony Burgess' life. Many of the artefacts that she preserved are now stored in the International Anthony Burgess Foundation in Manchester.

There is a slightly strange footnote to her preservation efforts in the form of a death mask, commissioned by Liana from the sculptor Michael Wade. She rejected the death mask and refused to set eyes on it.

My piece is in a sense a response to Liana's preservation project. It is essentially cumulative, with a 'continuum' that is punctuated by events, but this all builds up to a strange, almost grotesque ending.

J.C.

9 breath only A

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *ppp* breath only

Sus. Cym. *ppp* *ppp*

Pno. (15) *pp* like an echo *ppp* as before (loco) 3 ^{15^{ma}} *poco*

Vln. I *ppp* sul pont. *gliss.* *ppp* barely audible A *molto sul tasto* *gliss.* *ppp*

Vln. II *ppp* sul pont. *gliss.* *ppp* *molto sul tasto* *gliss.* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* molto sul pont. II *ppp* *molto sul tasto* *gliss.* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* molto sul pont. I *gliss.* *ppp* II *gliss.* *ppp*

14 breath only

Fl. *pp* *ppp*

Cl. *pp*

Sus. Cym. *ppp*

Pno. (15) *ppp* *ppp* *poco* 3

Vln. I *ppp* sul pont. *gliss.* *ppp*

Vln. II *ppp* sul pont. *gliss.* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* molto sul pont. III *gliss.* *gliss.* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *gliss.* *ppp*

28

Fl. *p* (nat.) *pp* *p espress.*

Cl. *p* *ppp*

Sus. Cym. *ppp* *p*

Pno. *ppp* *p* *pp* *ppp* 15^{ma}

Vln. *ppp* *ppp* *gliss.* *sul pont.*

Vln. *ppp* *gliss.*

Vla. *pp* *gliss.*

Vc. *gliss.*



32

Fl. -

Cl. *ppp*

Sus. Cym. *ppp*

Pno. (15^{ma}) *poco* *ppp*

Vln. *ppp* *gliss.*

Vln. -

Vla. *molto sul pont. IV*

Vc. *molto sul tasto* *ppp* *gliss.*

37 whistle tone

Fl. *ppp*

Cl. *ppp*

Sus. Cym. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

Vln. *ppp* *gliss.* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *gliss.* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *molto sul pont.* *gliss.* *ppp*

43 *lunga* **C**

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Sus. Cym. *ppp*

Pno. *mp* *sonore* *ppp*

Vln. *pp* *mf* *pp* *nat.* *pp* *sul tasto*

Vln. *pp* *mf* *ppp* *gliss.* *ppp* *sul pont.* *ppp* *sul tasto*

Vla. *pp* *mf* *pp* *col legno* *pp* *arco norm.* *sul tasto*

Vc. *pp* *mf* *pp* *sul tasto*

48

Fl. *pp* *mp cantabile*

Cl. *pp* *p espress.*

Sus. Cym. *p* *ppp*

Pno. *p* *(ppp)* *poco*

Vln. *p* *molto sul tasto gliss. ppp* *col legno pp*

Vln. *p* *molto sul tasto gliss. ppp*

Vla. *p* *molto sul tasto gliss. ppp*

Vc. *p* *molto sul pont. III gliss. ppp*

(5) *loco* *(5)*

54

Fl. *ppp*

Cl. *ppp*

Sus. Cym. *ppp*

Pno. *(ppp)* *poco*

Vln. *ppp* *arco norm.; sul pont. gliss. ppp*

Vln. *ppp* *sul pont. 5*

Vla. *ppp* *molto sul pont. II gliss.*

Vc. *ppp* *molto sul tasto gliss. ppp*

D

68

Fl.

Cl.

Sus. Cym.

Pno.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

(5)

ppp

mf

ppp

ppp

pp

p

pp

p

col legno

sul pont.

col legno

col legno

nat.

pp

71

Fl.

Cl.

Sus. Cym.

Pno.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

(5)

p

pp

p

p

pp

pp

mp

pp

p

pp

p

arco norm.; nat.
(on the string)

col legno

lunga

Almost grotesque; fast and rhythmic ♩ = c. 96 (← ♩ = ♩ →)

73

Fl.

Cl.

Sus. Cym.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 73-75. Flute and Clarinet parts are mostly rests. Suspended Cymbal has a single note at measure 73. Piano has rests. Time signatures are 3/4, 3/4, and 4/4.

arco norm.; nat.

col legno

arco norm.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Musical score for measures 73-75 for strings. Violins and Viola play rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. Violoncello has a similar pattern. Dynamics range from *p* to *mp*. Performance techniques include *arco norm.*, *col legno*, and *arco norm.*. Time signatures are 3/4, 3/4, and 4/4.

76

flz.

Fl.

Cl.

Sus. Cym.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 76-78. Flute has a melodic line with a *flz.* marking. Clarinet has a similar line. Suspended Cymbal has a single note. Piano has rests. Dynamics range from *mf* to *p*. Time signatures are 4/4, 3/4, and 4/4.

(on the string)

col legno

arco norm.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Musical score for measures 76-78 for strings. Violins and Viola play rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. Violoncello has a similar pattern. Dynamics range from *p* to *mp*. Performance techniques include *(on the string)*, *col legno*, and *arco norm.*. Time signatures are 4/4, 3/4, and 4/4.

79

Fl.

Cl.

Sus. Cym.

Pno.

Vln. arco norm. *mp* col legno *mp* 3

Vln. col legno *mp* 3

Vla. col legno *mp* arco norm. (on the string) *p* col legno *mp*

Vc. col legno *mp* 3 arco norm. *p*

82

Fl. 5 flz. *p* *f* *mf* *f*

Cl. *p* *f* *mf*

Sus. Cym. *f* *mf*

Pno. *p* *f* *mf* *p*

Vln. arco norm. *p* *f* col legno *mp* arco norm. (on the string) *p*

Vln. arco norm. (on the string) *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *mp* 3

Vc. *f* col legno *mp* 3

più lunga

84

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Sus. Cym. damp here if necessary

Pno. (release pedal in time)

Vln. *mp* col legno

Vln. col legno

Vla. arco norm. *p*

Vc. *mp*