UCLA

Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Haiku Macabre

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8526z33c

Author

Wind Whitmarsh, Jamie

Publication Date

2020

Jamie Wind Whitmarsh 2014

Haiku Macabre for solo violin

duration: between 6 and 9 minutes

Haiku Macabre

I. Spiders In My Eyes II. Swallowed Some Of My Own Teeth III. Sickness Is Spreading

PROGRAM NOTES

Haiku Macabre is in three movements, the sum of which create a haiku. The notation for the first movement is largely graphical, and utilizes ambiguous trills interacting with spatially arranged artificial harmonics. In other words, the pitch is mostly unspecified. You might imagine yourself experiencing an unsettling dream, with an uncomfortable prickly feeling in your eyes – only to awake and find a horde of spiders crawling in your sockets.

The second movement is performed entirely without the bow.

Consider a bright day when you are walking down the street (perhaps on a stroll meant to take your mind off of your abrupt and disturbing awakening this morning). Occasionally a disconcerting feeling pops up in the back of your mind, but you try not to focus on it too much. More and more, you notice that something REALLY feels uncomfortable in your mouth. Several teeth, having been loosened during your trek, abruptly fall out of their sockets, causing you to gasp in surprise and, unfortunately, swallow some of your own teeth. Today is not a very good day for you.

The final movement begins with the performer detuning his or her lowest string. The pitch of this string does not matter. This movement is a slow dirge – a musical representation of madness overtaking what was once a calm, reasonable mind. It may be a physical ailment, or perhaps a mental one - but either way, irreparable damage has been wrought, and there is no going back. All that can be done now is to spread the sickness further, to infect with abandon. Upon a repeat of the movement, the sickness will literally spread.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The performer should provide instructions to some audience members prior to the concert. Certain audience members will, upon the repeat of the third movement, playback sound files loaded on a smart phone device. Other audience members will cough, sporadically at first and then with growing fervor. It is essential that this audience participation is a surprise for those who are not involved.

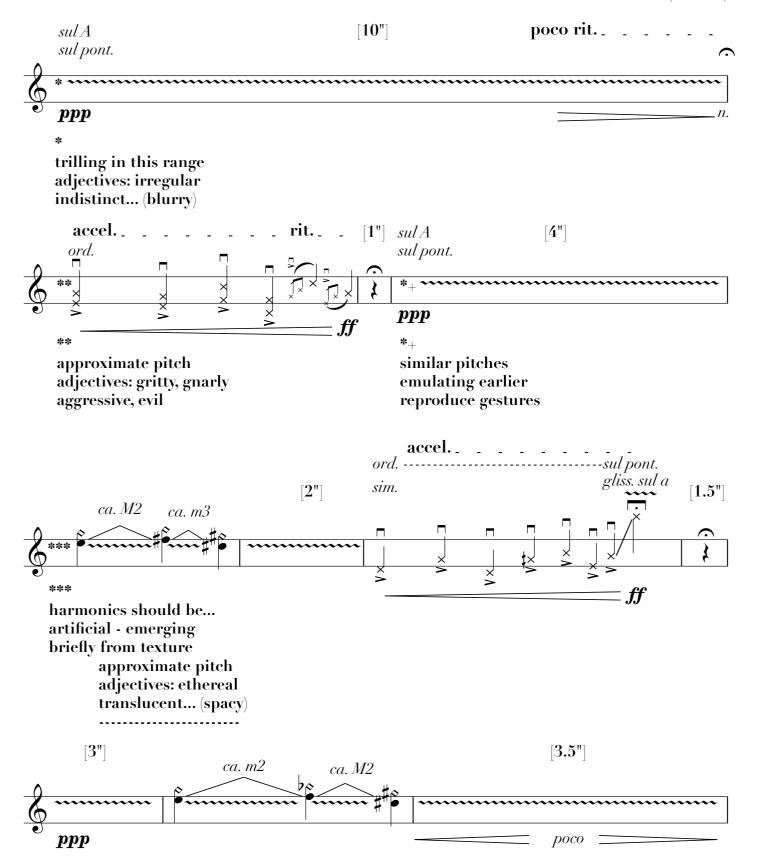
JWW

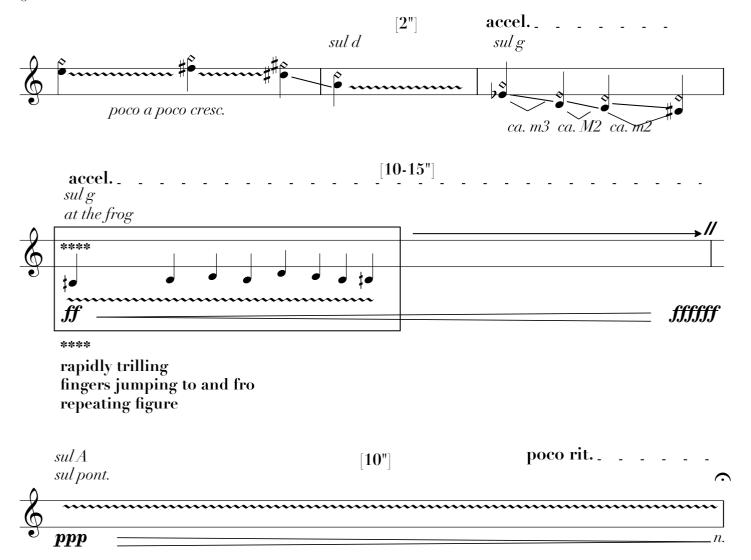
Haiku Macabre

for solo violin

I. Spiders In My Eyes

Jamie Wind Whitmarsh (ASCAP)

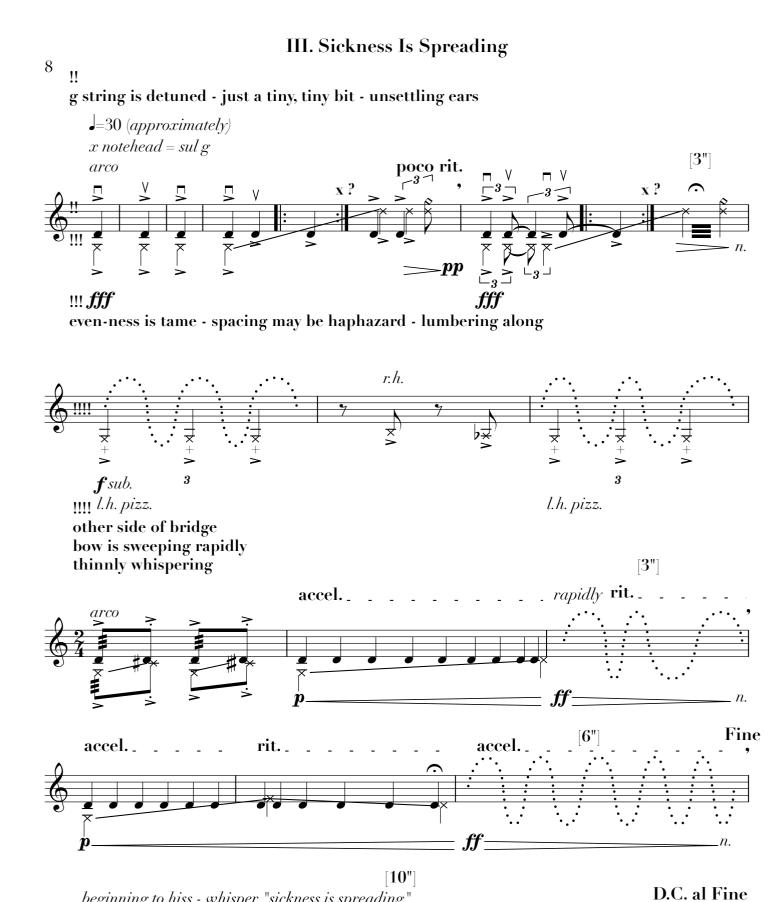








©2014 Jamie Wind Whitmarsh Music



beginning to hiss - whisper "sickness is spreading"