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**Title**

Haiku Macabre

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**Jamie Wind Whitmarsh**  
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**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)

*sul A*  
*sul pont.*

[10"]

*poco rit.* . . . . .

**ppp** n.

\*  
trilling in this range  
adjectives: irregular  
indistinct... (blurry)

*ord.* *accel.* . . . . . *rit.* . . . [1"] *sul A* [4"]  
*sul pont.*

**ff** **ppp**

\*\*  
approximate pitch  
adjectives: gritty, gnarly  
aggressive, evil

\*+  
similar pitches  
emulating earlier  
reproduce gestures

*ord.* *sim.* *accel.* . . . . . *sul pont.*  
*gliss. sul a* [1.5"]

**ff**

\*\*\*  
harmonics should be...  
artificial - emerging  
briefly from texture  
approximate pitch  
adjectives: ethereal  
translucent... (spacy)

[3"] *ca. m2* *ca. M2* [3.5"]

**ppp** *poco*

*poco a poco cresc.*

*sul d* [2"]

*accel.* *sul g*

*ca. m3 ca. M2 ca. m2*

*accel.* [10-15"]

*sul g*

*at the frog*

*ff* *fffff*

\*\*\*\*

rapidly trilling  
fingers jumping to and fro  
repeating figure

*sul A* [10"]

*sul pont.*

*poco rit.*

*ppp* *n.*

## II. Swallowed Some Of My Own Teeth

Leisurely ♩=180-200

*pizz.*

*f*

*sim.*

*sfz*

\*\*\*\*

attack the first pitch  
sliding into the second  
like a gasping sigh

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sim.*

*ff*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*accel.*

*gliss. sul G*

♩=62

*(pizz.)*

*lunga*

*brief*

*sfz*

\*\*\*\*

*ff*

rearticulate - pizzicato moving up - accelerando

♩=62

♩=220 *rall.*

*sul D*

*sim.*

*tritone-ish*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*sfz*

! \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*

approximate pitch - dying away, adjectives: sinking... decaying



### III. Sickness Is Spreading

8

!!

g string is detuned - just a tiny, tiny bit - unsettling ears

♩=30 (approximately)

x notehead = sul g

arco

**pp** **fff**

!!! **fff**

even-ness is tame - spacing may be haphazard - lumbering along

**f sub.** **l.h. pizz.**

!!! **l.h. pizz.**

other side of bridge  
bow is sweeping rapidly  
thinly whispering

**p** **ff**

**p** **ff** **Fine**

**D.C. al Fine**

beginning to hiss - whisper "sickness is spreading"