

Ha

JULIA USHER



Sacred
Conversations

Sonata for
trumpet, flute, oboe
and piano.

primavera

SACRED CONVERSATIONS

For CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
Commissioned by Sounds Positive

This Piece was written in 1993, with a grant from
The Arts Council of Great Britain.

Scored for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Trumpet and Piano

It was first performed in Leighton House, Kensington in 1993;
and two other performances followed:
In Trinity Arts Centre, Tunbridge Wells (1994);
and the Turner Sims Hall, University of Southampton (1994).

In the restless Prelude of this piece, the music arises from a situation of conflict and distress. This disturbance continues in instrumental episodes of ceaseless questioning; queries and challenges at first flung into an underlying silence.

As the piece proceeds, the silence is no longer felt as a void. More serene and expressive material evolves from the silences to dominate the texture, offering a different perception of time.

In the final coda the dialogue is never fully resolved,
nor any answer complete.

instrumentation:
Trumpet in Bb, flute (picc/alto),
oboe (cor), clar in Bb, piano

PROGRAMME NOTE

The music is notated very strictly from a rhythmic point of view,
because of many shifting signatures.

this is for the ease of co-ordinating the parts. However, the interpretation of the ensemble should aim for as much conversational flexibility and a t times extreme rubato as possible, particularly in the sections which are more cadenza-like and contemplative. Wherever there are pauses, either of held notes, or in rests, there should be a sense of a "listening silence". And at all times players should be sensitive to each others' rubato in preference to mathematical rigidity.

PRELUDE

7

7

4

6

8

16

8

16

$\text{♩} = 138$ Allegro, urgente

TRUM B
FLUTE
OBOE
CLAR B
PIANO

5 7 3 5 2 3
16 8 16 4 4

10 7 2 6 2 A 2
16 8 16 4 15 8

6 5 9 6 2
16 8 16 16 8

mf f mf f

Sven

3 2 7 3 10
16 4 **B** 16 8 25 16

sfz mf mf mf

4/4

7 2 6
16 8 30 16

$\text{♩} = 152$
piu mosso accel

mf mp mf mf mf

C allegro molto,
but halting

31 **8** **7** **8**
16 **16** **16** $\text{♩} = 186$

35

39 **6** **8**
8

42 *senza cord.* $\text{♩} = c. 80$ **allegro**

8ve
mf
8
7
8
3 3

45 *pin f*

mf
f
sf
8ve
molto legato

SLOKA 1 challenging

48

sf
sfz
8ve
28ves