

‘...from a distant shore...’

for solo oboe

Robert Saxton

Preview File Only

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'... from a distant shore ...' for solo oboe

The title of this piece refers to verses 20 and 21 of the Old Testament Book of Exodus, in which Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron, is described dancing and singing a song of deliverance on the shore of the Sea of Reeds (The Red Sea):

' And Miriam, the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dances. And Miriam answered them: Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.'

This is one of the earliest documented descriptions of a song and dance of praise and thanksgiving. The music attempts to reflect this, both by using the oboe, the 'original' reed instrument, and in terms of musical character. The 'distant shore' referred to is not only the physical/geographical site of Miriam's celebration, but also symbolises the temporally distant event and its re-enactment, a basic concept of Passover, the annual festival which, literally, re-lives the Exodus story.

The piece was commissioned by Melinda Maxwell, who gave the first performance at Dartington Summer School in August, 2001.

Duration: 5 minutes ca.

Preview File Only

for Melinda Maxwell

...from a distant shore...

Robert Saxton, 2001

$\text{♩} = 80 \text{ ca.}$ flowing

Oboe

p *mp* *p*

7

mf *p* *mf pp* *p < mp*

14

poco a poco cresc

21

f

28

poco a poco dim

35

mp

41

poco a poco cresc

46

f *p(subito)* *mf*

52

p(subito) *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

58

cresc *f* *dim*

63

mp

69 

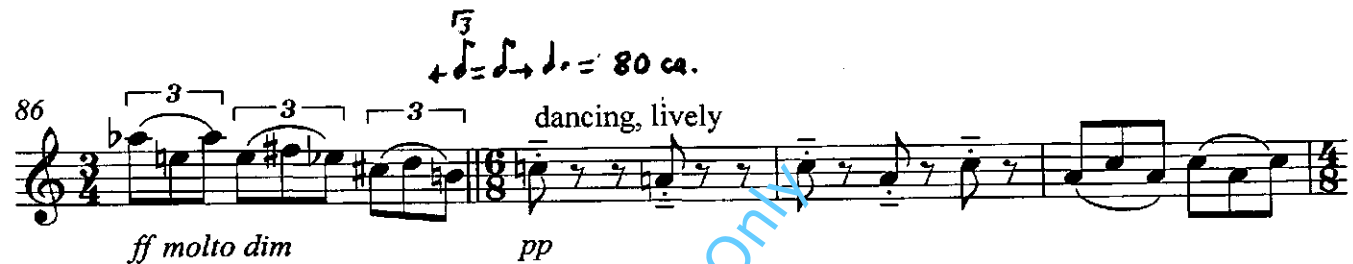
cresc

74 

mf *cresc*

81 

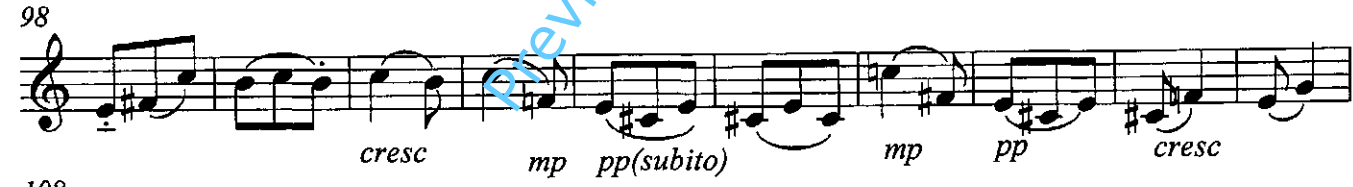
f *mf (subito) molto cresc*

86 

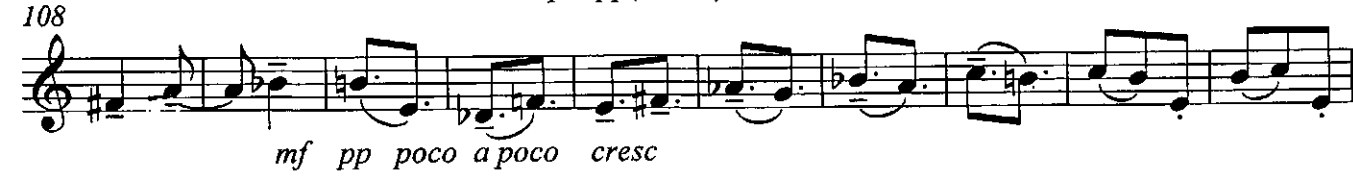
ff molto dim *pp* *dancing, lively*

$\sqrt[3]{\text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow \text{♩} = 80 \text{ ca.}}$

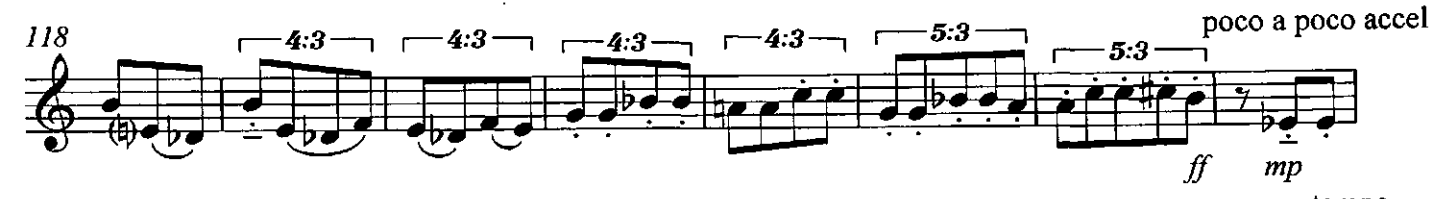
90 

98 

cresc *mp* *pp(subito)* *mp* *pp* *cresc*

108 

mf *pp* *poco a poco* *cresc*

118 

poco a poco accel *ff* *mp*

126 

a tempo

135 

poco a poco cresc