

Saida Portraits

Piano and Percussion

Francesca Le Lohé

Saida Portraits for piano and percussion (2014). Composed for George Barton and Siwan Rhys as part of the New Dots 2014 concert series. Premiered June 2014 at The Forge, Camden, London.

Percussion: Glockenspiel, two temple blocks (one medium and one low pitch), very small gong (for example Thai gong, Bb), bass drum, crotales (low octave) and two splash cymbals of different sizes (for example 10" and 12"). A bow is needed for the crotales and cymbal in movement IV. The Veil.

'Saida Portraits' is in five short movements, each inspired by a portrait photograph taken by Hashem el Madani in his studio in Saida, Lebanon during the 1950's, 60's and 70's. Madani was a successful studio photographer who was visited by many people in the town to be photographed, often treating the studio as a safe haven where they could act out their wishes and desires. Out of the hundreds of portraits which have been collected and exhibited by the artist Akram Zaatari, I have chosen five portraits with the common theme of pride and celebration as inspiration.

I. Father and Son

A father proudly holds his very young, bewildered looking son up to the camera.

II. Reesh

Reesh, a bulky, muscly man, sucks his stomach in and shows off his physique.

III. Baqari's Wife

A woman secretly went to enjoy herself and pose for the camera. When her possessive husband found out, he ordered the photographer to take a pin and scratch out her face on the negatives.

IV. The Veil

A friend helps a bride-to-be with her wedding veil and gives the photographer a stern glare.

V. The Kiss

Two playful young men wish to re-enact a kiss from a big, romantic film. However, in the conservative society of Saida in the 1950's, people were more comfortable performing the kiss with someone of the same sex.

Approx. duration: 10 minutes

Saida Portraits

I. Father and Son

Francesca Le Lohé

♩ = 120
Playful, but hesitant

Temple Blocks

Glockenspiel

Piano

♩ = 120
Joyful, declamatory

6

Glock.

Pno.

10

Glock.

Pno.

14

T.Bl.

Glock.

Pno.

III. Baqari's Wife

98 $\text{♩} = 116$
B.D. Bass Drum

$\text{♩} = 116$
Carefree, flowing motion

Pno. *f*

103 *8va*

108 *Sinister and subtle*
B.D. *pp* *lv. throughout*

Pno. *f*

113

B.D. *p*

119 *f* *mf*

124 *mp* *8va* *mf*

V The Kiss

216 $\text{♩} = 66$
small splash cymbal
medium splash cymbal
Glock.

$\text{♩} = 66$
Smooth, dreamy

mp *sim. arpeggiated* *mp* *p* *mf*

Ped. *sim.*

223 $\text{♩} = 96$
Cheeky, bizarre choked dampen

p *f*

$\text{♩} = 96$
Cheeky, bizarre

p *f* *not arpeggiated*

230 *rall.* $\text{♩} = 66$

mp *sim. arpeggiated* *p* *mp* *f*

Ped. *sim.*

237 *l.v.* *p* *accel.*

mp *accel.*