

Mascaron
Ailís Ní Ríain



Mascaron [2022]

Ailís Ní Ríain

Double-bass and altered piano*

Duration 4 mins 30 secs

Mascaron; (architecture) A carved, ornamental face, usually human, sometimes frightening or chimeric whose alleged function was originally to frighten away evil spirits so that they would not enter the building.

It seemed to me that the double-bass has all the acoustical possibilities of what, to my mind, a Mascaron can represent. This short piece is a characterful representation of the mascaron and those who might observe them.

Mascaron was commissioned by the Royal Academy of Music in celebration of its two hundredth anniversary

*Fixed media, played by the composer

Cover image © Sunbeam Photography Unsplash

www.ailis.info

Mascaron

Commissioned by The Royal Academy of Music in celebration of its bicentenary

Ailís Ní Ríain [2022]

Double-bass  = 50 Vertical bowing to and from bridge [no tones], wispy, mysterious, becoming more dense.....

Piano

p  *mp* 
[PF enters -
'knocking/rocking']

Db.  00:18

Pno. 

Db.  00:30

Pno.

Db.  00:45

Pno. *Rocking/knocking*

Db. 

Pno.  /lpf stops/

21

Db. gliss.
Pno.

p

24

Db. 7 5
Pno.

1:00

p

sul tasto, microtonal exploration,
[tempo - not strict]

gradually to -----

27

Db. *pluck / snap*
Pno.

---- ord

→ → → sul pont

1:15

ord.

30

Db. *mf* *mp* *mf*
Pno.

34

pizz.

7 7

Db. *mp* *mf*
Pno.

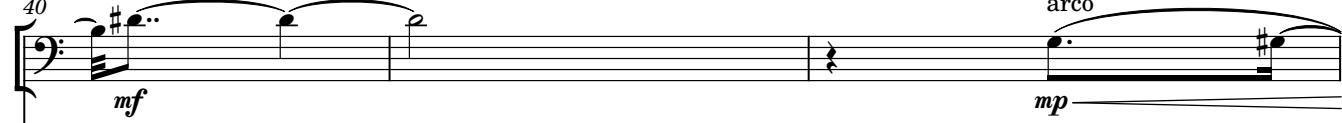
37

1:31

Db. 

Pno. 

40

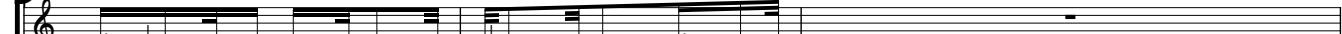
Db. 

Pno. 

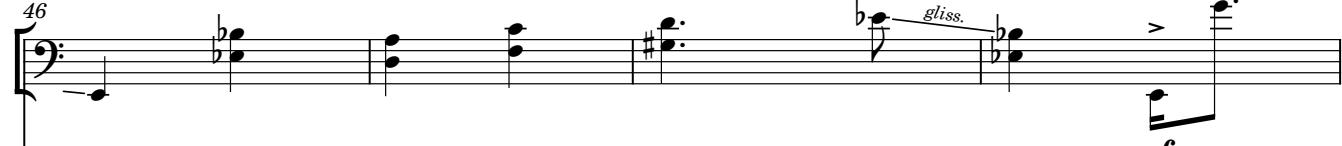
43

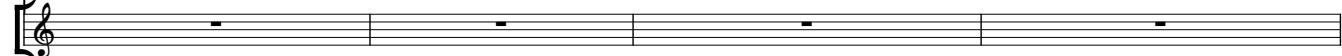
1:43

Db. 

Pno. 

46

Db. 

Pno. 

50

2:00

Db. 

Pno. 

53

sul-tasto

Db. Pno.

56

2:11

Db. Pno.

60

Open harmonic gliss sul E

2:25

Db. Pno.

64

Db. Pno.

68

2:40

Db. Pno.

72

Db. Pno.

3:00

76

Db. Pno.

to ----- sul pont

3:15

80

Db. Pno.

----- to ord.

harmonic gliss
------*---*---*---*---*

85

Db. Pno.

gliss. 5
gliss. 6
mf 5

3:26

89

Db. Pno.

pizz.

3 3 3

92

3:37 [ord]

Db.

Pno.

95

3:46

3:47 natural harmonics 'feathery'
mp

Db.

Pno.

99

4:00

Db.

Pno.

103

4:12
sul pont

[melody]

Db.

Pno.

108

Db.

Pno.