



Mascaron
Ailís Ní Ríain



Mascaron [2022]

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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

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Mascaron

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

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$\text{♩} = 50$ Vertical bowing to and from bridge [no tones], wispy, mysterious, becoming more dense.....

Double-bass

p *mp*

[PF enters - 'knocking/rocking']

Piano

5

00:18

Db.

mf

Pno.

10

00:30

Db.

f *mf* *p* *f*

sul pont ord. *gliss.* 3

Pno.

14

Db.

mf

jeté ord.

Pno.

Rocking/ knocking

18

00:45

Db.

f

Pno.

[pf stops]

21

Db. *gliss.* *p*

Pno.

24

Db. *mp* *mf* *p* *gliss.* **1:00**

Pno.

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

27

Db. *mp* *gliss.*

Pno. *[pluck / snap]*

gradually to -----

--- ord

30

Db. *gliss.* *mf* *mp* *ord.* *mf* **1:15**

Pno.

--->>> sul pont

34

Db. *pizz.* *mp* *mf*

Pno.

1:31

37

Db. *mp*

Pno.

40

Db. *mf* *arco* *mp*

Pno.

1:43

43

Db. *mf* *gliss.*

Pno.

46

Db. *mp* *gliss.* *arco* *mf*

Pno.

2:00

50

Db. *mp* *mf*

Pno.

53 *sul-tasto*

Db. *mp* *mf*

Pno.

56 **2:11**

Db. *mp*

Pno.

60 *Open harmonic gliss sul E* **2:25**

Db. *mf* *gliss.* *gliss.* *pizz* *mp*

Pno.

64

Db.

Pno. *'woody-ripple'*

68 **2:40**

Db.

Pno. *Bell-like*

72

arco

mf

Db.

Pno.

76

3:00

to ----- sul pont

mp *f*

glassy/scratchy

Db.

Pno.

80

----- to ord.

3:15

harmonic gliss

p *p* *mp*

5

gliss.

gliss.

Db.

Pno.

85

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

mp *mf*

5

6

5

Db.

Pno.

89

3:26

pizz.

mp

3

3

3

Db.

Pno.

92 **3:37** [ord]

Db.

Pno.

95 **3:46** **3:47** natural harmonics 'feathery'

Db.

Pno.

99 **4:00** gliss

Db.

Pno.

103 **4:12** sul pont

Db.

Pno.

108 *mp* *p* *pp*

Db.

Pno.