

Summertide

for Solo Harp

Duration c. 12'

Hollie Harding, 2022

Summertide

Written for Mared Pugh-Evans and commissioned as one of the Royal Academy of Music's 200 pieces series, celebrating the bicentenary of the institution. This edition of the piece includes Mared's suggested fingerings and markings as a guide.

Programme Note

When writing this piece I was thinking about the sounds, the fragrance, the light and the thickness of the air of hot, summer's days. Each movement explores these ideas in a different way, with their titles giving some indication of the musical atmosphere;

I. Reverie

II. Glisten

III. Haze

Technical Notes

The bottom 2 strings should be tuned to C and Db.

The lower strings of the harp must then be prepared with a long (30+cm), double thickness strip of strong kitchen foil which is woven between the strings. For each movement there is a particular type of sound, and a particular number of strings to prepare as below:

I. Reverie

The foil should be loosely woven from the lowest C to the C above. One end should be slightly touching the sound board. The desired sound is a gentle fizzing sound throughout the movement.

II. Glisten

The foil weaving should expand to include the D string (so should be woven from the lowest C string to the D string a 9th above this).

The ends of the foil should have lots of contact with the sounding board and the pillar to generate louder and more unpredictable fizzing and buzzing sounds.

III. Haze

The foil should function as in movement II, but some minor refitting / repositioning may be required after the previous movement. This movement also requires the player to hum (shown on the upper stave) and to play glissandi with a tuning key (shown in the right hand stave). The left hand stave includes crosshead notation which shows the designated strings to pluck and play (C,D,F,G,A) for the tuning key glissandi, and when to re-articulate this string.

For practicality, all harmonics in this movement should be played with the left hand. Note positions can be marked on the appropriate strings using tippex if you wish.

The harp should be fully dampened between each movement.

I. Reverie

E♭ F♯ G♯ A♯
B♯ C♯ D♯

♩ = 60 Softly wandering, with some flexibility of tempo

Harp

mp

6

D# F#

11

C♭ B♭ D♯

poco rit. **A tempo**

16

B♯ C♯ D# F#

pp *mp*