Rūta Vitkauskaitė

Buried Chants

for bass drum solo

commissioned by the Royal Academy of Music, London 2019

Special thank you to
Joanne Chiang for advice, and the first performance of the piece
Jude Carlton, Jake Brown, Josh Dunbar for advice and demonstration

Programme note

Buried Chants for bass drum solo emerged from my need to explore tonal and melodic potential in this grand instrument, which in classical scores often being seen as just 'one sound'. I personally associate bass drum with shamanic drumming, altered states of consciousness, sensing sound vibrations. The piece itself represents that – it is one person's ritual for themselves, they approach drum like a crystal ball, like a 'witchcraft soup', and, most importantly – like a powerful tool for producing indestructible energy of sound.

EXPLANATION PAGE

General

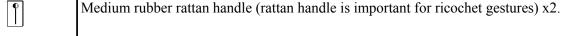
The piece is for one player only. The bass drum should be placed horizontally, performer should be standing. Music stand and mallet stand should be placed in a way that performer could walk the whole circle around the drum while playing.

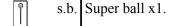
Hand indications (Hand 1 and 2) are flexible: performer can choose between right and left hand, and swap if needed throughout the piece. The interchange between hands is preferred when written in two lines, although when both hands are written on one line the interchange is up to performer's choice.

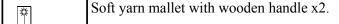
Ad Libitum tempo and rhythms can be interpreted freely, however should reflect the pulse of the whole piece. Precise tempo indications can be adjusted to a slower speed if needed.

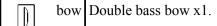
Mallets

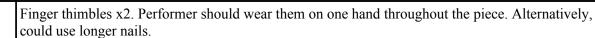
Mallet indications are suggestions only. Performer can choose their own mallets for the best effect.

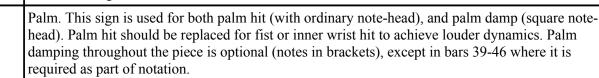




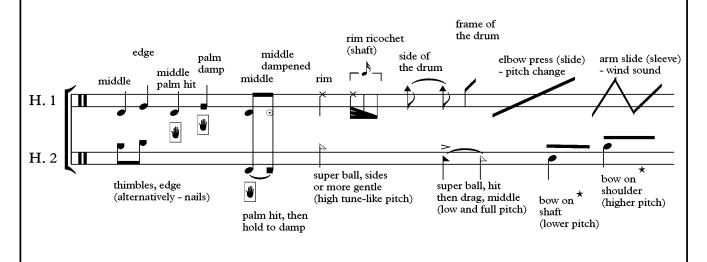








Noteheads

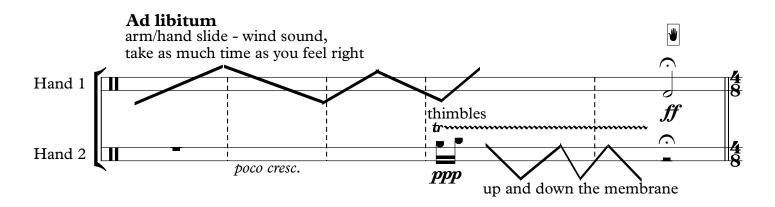


^{*}press mallet into the middle of the drum holding at the tip, and drag bow on handle to produce pitch-like scratchy sound. If you drag along the shaft, it will be lower pitch, than if you drag on the shoulder.

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