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Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Meditation on 82

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H a n n a h S e l i n

M e d i t a t i o n o n 8 2

for soprano and 4.1-channel electronics

FIRST
2020
EDITION

Pyxidata Publishing
Brooklyn, NY

Program Note

If a gong could speak, what would it say? *Meditation on 82* allows the vocalist and the gong to attempt a mutual metamorphosis. The soprano gives voice to the inner spirit of the gong, exploring the very rich sonic world it encompasses. In the process, she begins to acquire some of the gong's peculiar metallic qualities, and the gong utters its first words (which are, unsurprisingly, unintelligible to humans).

Meditation on 82 is part of an ongoing series of meditations on specific frequencies. This one is based on the sound of a *gong ageng*, a large, pitched Indonesian gong. The particular gong I recorded for this piece has fundmanetal of E2, which is a low E two octaves below middle C. I spent many hours recording the gong with various mic placements, from very close to a few feet away, in front and behind, and along a range of different radial positions along the gong's surface. The chart below illustrates the gong's strongest partials (harmonic and inharmonic), which I found through spectral analysis. These pitches, along with rhythms created by beating in the sound of the gong, became the basic elements that I used to construct smaller motifs and, eventually, the entire piece.

Performance Notes

Voice: The vocal part should merge in and out of the sound of the gong. Microtones indicate the relationship of the gong's partials to the notes of the equally tempered system (see diagram below). In the early stages of learning the piece, it will be helpful to listen to and study the recorded version of the electronics, in particular to the sound of the gong, to develop an ear for its sound-world. I would also recommend practicing with the recording, especially for tuning's sake, since it provides a harmonic context for the vocal part. Since this piece doesn't use any text, the IPA indicates vocal sounds.

-----> gradually shift from one sound to another (usually from one vowel to another)

✕ unpitched (use syllable provided)

↑ ♯ slightly sharp relative to notated pitch

↓ ♭ slightly flat relative to notated pitch

♯ one quarter-tone sharp

♭ one quarter-tone flat

~~~~~ wide vibrato

**Electronics:** Position the speakers in a rectangle at the corners of the room, surrounding the audience. The subwoofer should be placed in front of the stage and kept at a relatively low level. Play [Ba4] to test. Lightly mic the soprano to add reverb; adjust reverb level to fit the performance space.

[B] bells

[RB] reverse bells

[G1] gong events 1-4

[RG] reverse gong

[S] shells

[Ba1] bass events 1-4

[T1] treble events 1-4

~~~~~ wide vibrato

Meditation on 82

for soprano and 4.1-channel electronics

Hannah Selin

Open, c. 20-30" ♩ = c. 60

Soprano Solo

Electronics

A

2

pp *f* *p* *mf*

inhale, "f" a -----> u

Λon don don don gdon don ton ton

RB

pp *f* *pp*

G1

9

pp *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf*

inhale, "f" a -----> u - n don don don don don don don don don don

RG

pp *mf*

G2

B

22 *pp* *f*
inhale, "f"
e ----- u

RB

pp *f*

G3

Open (c. 20-40") percussive improvisation
in dialogue with electronics

26 *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*
a

S enter gradually

pp *pp* *mf* *pp*

C

31 *mf* *f*
3 # # b b b
tun ton tsin don dan don ti - - ya

T1

pp 3 *mf*

Ba1

mf

34 *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

tsya- don tsu dan tyn tyn tyn tyn tyn tun tun tun

36 *f* *p* (unpitched) *mp* *pp*

tun ton ton [ty]

niente

39 *mf* *mp* *p*

sun tan ton den de-on zon le - ro le - ro

T2

Ba2

42 *mp* 3 *p* *cresc.* - poco - a - poco - -

den din don dēn din gēn zon ton su - n zo - n tsu - n

T3 *pp*

45 *ff* *f* wide vibrato between E and E quarter flat

tsu - n zohn tsu - n se - n dō tē su - n din tan te tan tsin dan tin de shēn

T4 *ff* *pp* *mf* B3

Ritenuato *ff* A tempo

48 3 den dēn den zen dan ton tēn

pp

53

pp inhale, "ff" inhale, "ff" *niente*

B4

pp

59

D

f *pp* *pp*

a u

S and B ad lib. to the end

G4

65 Open (Gradually Fade Out)

mp *ppp* *niente*

G4