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Wind-up Bird

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Emil Ernström

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for piano trio

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Program Note

Wind-up Bird takes its name from Haruki Murakami's titular novel, though I'm not particularly inspired by Murakami's meandering narrative fantasy and more by the image of the wind-up bird itself. The wind-up bird is a machine, a collection of gears and coils, tightly wound yet ready to spring into action at moment's notice. The wind-up bird is not alive (it is a thing), but the precise construction of its mechanics attempt to dissuade us of this truth. It intends to portray life, the fluttering, palpitating sense that is existence, a being with a timepiece instead of a heart and axles instead of veins, springs instead of tendons and aluminum instead of skin. It is dead, lifeless, yet the fluid motion of its wings seem to say otherwise. The wind-up bird has no heart, but its soul dreams of flight.

duration: ca 6 minutes

Wind-Up Bird

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*Slightly delirious,
still steady ♩ = 144*

Violin *p* *pp*

Violoncello *p* *pp*

Piano *p* *pp*
no pedal

Vln. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *p*
Ped.

Vln. *mf* *molto* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *molto* *p* *mf* *p* *pizz.* *arco*

Pno. *mf* *molto* *p* *mf* *pp*
Ped.

18

Vln. *f* *pp* *p*

Vc. *f* *p* *molto* *p*

Pno. *f* *p* *molto* *pp*

III (sounding)

IV

middle pedal to sustain C

24

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Pno.

III (sounding)

29

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

33

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

pp
pizz.
IV

p

38

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

arco

f

pizz.

p
pizz.
IV

p

44

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

percussive

staccatissimo

staccatissimo

49

Vln. *cresc.* *mf*

Vc. *cresc.* *mp*

Pno. *cresc.* *mf* *staccatissimo* *mp*

55

Vln. *f* *sf sub pp* *arco*

Vc. *f* *sf sub pp* *arco*

Pno. *staccatissimo* *staccatissimo* *f* *sf* *sub pp*

60

Vln. *molto sul ponticello* *ord.* *mf*

Vc. *molto sul ponticello* *ord.* *mf*

Pno. *mp*

65 arco III $\rightarrow$ molto sul ponticello

Vln. sf sub pp

Vc. arco sf sub pp f

Pno. sf sub pp

70 ord. III IV

Vln. f mp

Vc. ord. mp

Pno. mf pp mp

8va

75

Vln. f mp

Vc. mf f ff mp

Pno. ppp f cresc. molto pp mp

8va

ord.

Ped.

[illegible]

This musical score segment covers measures 92 to 95. It features three staves: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin (Vln.):** The melody continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 94. It concludes with a half note G4 in measure 95, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.
- Viola (Vc.):** The part consists of sustained chords and single notes, primarily in the lower register, providing harmonic support. It ends with a half note G3 in measure 95, also marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.
- Piano (Pno.):** The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Measure 95 includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 95.

97

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mp *f* *sim.*

mp *f* *sim.*

f

Detailed description: This system covers measures 97 to 100. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts feature long, sustained notes. The Violin part starts with a half note G4 (b), followed by a half note A4 (b), and then a half note B4 (b). The Viola part starts with a half note F3 (b), followed by a half note G3 (b), and then a half note A3 (b). Both parts have dynamics *mp*, *f*, and *sim.* (sustained). The Piano (Pno.) part consists of chords and a bass line. The right hand plays chords of G4 (b) and A4 (b), while the left hand plays a bass line with notes like F3 (b), G3 (b), and A3 (b). The dynamic *f* is indicated at the beginning of the system.

101

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mp *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 101 to 103. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts feature long, sustained notes. The Violin part starts with a half note G4 (b), followed by a half note A4 (b), and then a half note B4 (b). The Viola part starts with a half note F3 (b), followed by a half note G3 (b), and then a half note A3 (b). Both parts have a dynamic of *mp*. The Piano (Pno.) part consists of chords and a bass line. The right hand plays chords of G4 (b) and A4 (b), while the left hand plays a bass line with notes like F3 (b), G3 (b), and A3 (b). The dynamic *mp* is indicated at the beginning of the system.

104

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f *mp* *f*

mp *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 104 to 107. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts feature long, sustained notes. The Violin part starts with a half note G4 (b), followed by a half note A4 (b), and then a half note B4 (b). The Viola part starts with a half note F3 (b), followed by a half note G3 (b), and then a half note A3 (b). Both parts have dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The Piano (Pno.) part consists of chords and a bass line. The right hand plays chords of G4 (b) and A4 (b), while the left hand plays a bass line with notes like F3 (b), G3 (b), and A3 (b). The dynamics *mp* and *f* are indicated at the beginning of the system.

108

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

sim.

f

p

sf *pp*

113

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

118

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

dark, murky

mf *subito ppp*

123

Vln. arco *pp* *p*

Vc. arco *pp* *p*

Pno.

129

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *p*

134

Vln. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

Pno.

139

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

f

mf

144

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

ff

ff

mp

149

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

ff

ff

p

p

f

pp

154 (ord.) *molto sul ponticello*

Vln. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *ff*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

pedal continues but much lighter *ff*

Ped.

159

Vln. *fp* *p*

Vc. *fp*

Pno. *sf* *p*

165

Vln. *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.* *f*

Pno.

171

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

f

176

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

182

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

187

Vln.

Vc.

arco

pp

ppp

Pno.

pp

sf

Red.

192

Vln.

Vc.

p

Pno.

p

197

Vln.

Vc.

pp

ppp

Pno.

202

Vln.

Vc.

pp

Pno.

208

Vln.

Vc.

(piano solo until m. 219)

Pno.

212

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

216 *slowing down as much as possible* *ca. ♩ = 20* Joyous, probably crazy ♩ = 170-180 15

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *ff* *f* *light pedal*

222

Vln. *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff* *mp*

228

Vln. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *mf*

233

Vln. *mp* *p* pizz.

Vc. *mp* *p* pizz. +

Pno. *mp* *p*

239

Vln. *mf* arco *mp*

Vc. *mf* arco *mp*

Pno. *mf*

Red.

245

Vln. *fp* *pp*

Vc. *fp* *pp*

Pno. *fp* *pp*

251

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

cresc.

Violin and Viola parts: Eighth-note patterns with accents. Violin is in treble clef, Viola in bass clef. Both marked *cresc.*

Piano part: Chords in both staves with eighth-note bass lines. Marked *cresc.*

254

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

fp

f

Red.

Violin and Viola parts: End with a half note. Both marked *fp*.

Piano part: Sustained chords in both staves. Marked *f*.

Red.