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Concerto After Joyce

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Thomas Feng

Concerto after Joyce

for flute, strings, and harp

Program Notes

Concerto after Joyce was inspired by James Joyce's novel, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. I found the story of Stephen Dedalus, the novel's protagonist, to somewhat parallel my own trajectory as an aspiring artist (extremities aside, of course); in Stephen's awakenings, obsessions, epiphanies, and struggles with restrictive institutions, I saw my own.

The concerto, then, serves both as a loose programmatic interpretation of Joyce's novel as well as a sort of cumulative autobiography. The idea of a concerto based on the novel seemed only fitting: the solo flute is intended to represent the young artist, and the strings are to be the external world. I also found Joyce's style of writing very much in tune with my own developing "dreamy" aesthetic. Typical of the concerto genre, the work is somewhat of a "battle" between the flute - a Joycean "anti-hero" - and the orchestral forces.

Despite all these premises, the concerto is not intended to be merely a musing on Joyce or my own life. In writing this work, I attempted to capture the struggles of all budding artists, male or female, young or not.

The work is separated into five interconnected sections, each titled after a phrase from each chapter of Joyce's novel:

Prologue: ...drifting amid life like the barren shell of the moon...

Scherzo: ...his blood was in revolt...

Elegy: ...he wept for the innocence he had lost...

Intermezzo: ...the cry of triumph which his lips withheld cleft his brain...

Cadenza and Epilogue: ...lightnings of so clear a splendour that in those moments the world perished about his feet...

Performance Notes

General notation

- Accidentals still apply throughout the measure.
- Regarding notation of trills: both involved pitches are indicated, as there are many trills that are beyond the interval of a minor/major second (the cue-sized note in parentheses is always the note to be trilled to). Where there is no cue-note, the trill goes to the next note up in the key, as is conventional.

Flute notation

- Notes with circles over them (often including a diamond notehead under them) indicate alternate/harmonic fingerings. Where a diamond notehead is not given, the fingering is left to the player's discretion.
- A "Corigliano tremolo" is a chain of erratic repeated notes; any spastic string of articulations will suffice.
- The multiphonic in the cadenza is executed by fingering the diamond-headed note and directing the air to form the two notated pitches.

String notation

- S.P. = sul ponticello
- N = "normal" position
- S.T. = sul tasto
- Arrows indicate a shift from one bow position to another.

Harp notation

- All harmonics are notated an octave below sounding.

Concerto after Joyce

THOMAS FENG (2011)

...drifting amid life like the barren shell of the moon...
Slowly; always rather freely ♩ = ca. 48

non vibrato poco rit.

Flute Solo

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Harp

a tempo

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

a tempo

Hp.

2

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. b.

Hp.

poco accel.

Slightly faster $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

(non arpegg.)

Fl.

Vln. I

(sempre div.)

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. b.

Hp.

via sord.

ff p

poco accel.

Slightly faster $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

rit. tempo I ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 48$)

Fl. ff — p
Vln. I ff p S.P. ff — pp
Vln. II ff p S.P. ff — pp
Vla. ff (sempre div.) p dim. N → S.P.
Vc. ff (sempre div.) N → S.P.
Db. ff N → S.P.
Hpf. rit. tempo I ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 48$) mp

L'istesso tempo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 48$)

Fl. mp 3 7 5 3

Fl. Faster $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$
(poco) 8
Vln. I —
Vln. II —
Vla. div, N 8
Vc. p unis, N
Db. mp poco express. 2

A Faster $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

Hpf. —

4 30

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

3

Db.

mp

Hp.

==

36

accel.

Fl.

Vln. I

p

Vln. II

p

Vla.

f > p

Vc.

mp

Db.

mp

Hp.

mfp cresc.

f

A tempo $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

B **poco rit.** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

B **Slower** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

Hp.

46

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

(non div.)

Vc.

mf

Db.

H.p.

pizz.

p cresc.

poco accel.

53

Fl. *cresc.*

Vln. I pizz. *mf* *f*

Vln. II pizz. *mp cresc.* *f*

Vla. *poco accel.*

Vc. *poco accel.* *f*

Db. *poco accel.* *f*

Hp. *p.d.t.* *mf*

Faster \downarrow = ca. 72

Even faster; obsessive \downarrow = ca. 96

57

Fl. *ff*

Vln. I *s.p.* arco *ff* *mf* *f* pizz.

Vln. II *ff* *p* *cresc.* *s.p.* *ff* *mfz* pizz.

Vla. *ff* *p* *cresc.* *s.p.* *ff* *mfz* pizz.

Vc. *ff* *p* *cresc.* *s.p.* *ff* *mfz* pizz.

Db. *ff* *p* *cresc.* *s.p.* *ff* *mfz* pizz.

Hp. *ff* *mf cresc.* *accel.* *ff* *ff* *ff*

C

...his blood was in revolt...

7

Fl. *mfz*

Vln. I *mfz*

Vln. II *pizz. mfz*

Vla. *pizz. mf*

Vc. *pizz. mf*

Db. *mf*

C

Hp. *mf p.d.l.t.*



Fl.

Vln. I *pizz. mfz*

Vln. II *mfz*

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp. *ord. sfz*

70

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

p.d.l.t.



75

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

79

Fl.
pizz.
Vln. I
sfz
pizz.
Vln. II
sfz
arco
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
sfz
Hpt.
sfz



83

Fl.
mf
(div.)
Vln. I
p
div.
Vln. II
p
mfp
sfz
5
unis.
5
Vla.
pizz.
arco
Vc.
p
mfpz
5
p
mfpz
5
Db.
p
mfpz
5
Hpt.
p
mfpz

87

Fl. *p*

Vln. I pizz. *mf*

Vln. II pizz. *mf*

Vla. pizz. *sfz*

Vc. pizz. *sfz*

D. *f*

Hp. *sfz*

=

92

Fl. *ff* *mf* *f* *fff*

Vln. I *sfz* *p*

Vln. II *sfz* arco, S.P. *mp*

Vla. *sfz* arco, S.P. *mf*

Vc. *sfz* arco, S.P. *f*

D. *arco* *f* *fff fp*

Hp. *sfz* *f*

D Hushed, but still restless (l'istesso tempo)

96

Fl. *p nervously sensual*

Vln. I *p* *con sord.*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *S.P. pizz.*

Vc. *S.P. pizz.*

Db. *S.P. pizz.*

D Hushed, but still restless (l'istesso tempo)

Hp. *p*

p.d.l.t.

mfz

p.d.l.t.

101

Fl. *f* *p*

Vln. I *mf* *f* *sfp* *pizz.*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *p* *pizz.*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *f*

Db. *mfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Hp. *mfz*

106

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

p.d.l.t.

=

112

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Fl. 3 3 f

Vln. I mp 3 3 f mf 3 sfz 3

Vln. II mp 3 3 f mf 3 sfz 3

Vla. V 3 mf sfz mf 3 sfz

Vc. V mf sfz mf 3 sfz pizz.

D. b. f mf sfz sfz

Hp. sfz

p.d.l.t. wavy line

Fl. 3 3 3

Vln. I f sfz sfz pizz. sfz pizz.

Vln. II f sfz sfz pizz. sfz pizz.

Vla. f sfz sfz pizz.

Vc. f sfz sfz pizz.

D. b. f sfz

Hp. f 3 3

wavy line

14 127

Fl. *p cresc.*

mf 6 6

Vln. I arco *p cresc.*

Vln. II arco *p cresc.*

Vla. arco *p cresc.*

Vc. arco *p cresc.*

Db. arco *p cresc.*

Hp. *p cresc.*

mp 3 3

f

132

Fl. 3 3 *f*

Vln. I 3 3 *pizz. ♩*

Vln. II 3 3 *pizz. ♩*

Vla. 3 3 *pizz. ♩*

Vc. 3 3 *pizz. ♩*

Db. 3 3 *mf*

Hp. *mf* *sforz.* *p.d.l.t.*

137

Fl. *mf* freely, breathlessly

pp

p

mf



Fl.

p

mf



E A tempo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 96$)

Fl. *p*

mfz

Vln. I via sord.

Vln. II via sord.

Vla. via sord.

Vc. via sord.

Db. via sord.

col legno

p

mfz

Vln. I via sord.

Vln. II via sord.

Vla. via sord.

Vc. via sord.

Db. via sord.

col legno

p

Vln. I via sord.

Vln. II via sord.

Vla. via sord.

Vc. via sord.

Db. via sord.

col legno

p

Vln. I via sord.

Vln. II via sord.

Vla. via sord.

Vc. via sord.

Db. via sord.

col legno

p

Vln. I via sord.

Vln. II via sord.

Vla. via sord.

Vc. via sord.

Db. via sord.

E A tempo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 96$)

mp

Vln. I via sord.

Vln. II via sord.

Vla. via sord.

Vc. via sord.

Db. via sord.

col legno

p

140

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

f

mfp

pizz.

sfz

145

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

ff

ffff frenzied

pizz. *f*

sffz

sfffz

pizz. *f*

sffz

sfffz

pizz. *f*

f

sffz

sffz

sfffz

erratic repeated notes
("Corigliano tremolo")

Fl. 149 *ffff*

Vln. I arco → S.P. N IV III

Vln. II *fffz* arco IV III *(poco)*

Vla. *fffz* arco III II *(poco)*

Vc. ♩ *ff* arco *ffz* *ffz* arco

Db. ♩ *ffz* *ffz* *ffz* *ffz*

Hp. *ffff* *fffz*

...he wept for the innocence he had lost...

F Suddenly slow, punishing $\text{♩} = \text{ca. 54}$



18

161

Fl. *pizz.* *mf*

Vln. I *pizz.* *sffz* *p*
first desk, *arco*

Vln. II *pizz.* *sffz* *p*

Vla. *S.P.* *sffz*

Vc. *S.P.* first desk, N *f* *pp* *poco rit.* *p*

D. *S.P.* *sffz*

Hp. *sffz*

二

167

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

Hp.

Slower $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 48$

Flute: Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamic: **p**. Articulation: grace notes.

Violin I: Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamic: **pp**. Articulation: grace notes.

Violin II: Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamic: **p**. Articulation: arco.

Cello: Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamic: **p**. Articulation: N.

Double Bass: Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamic: **p**. Articulation: N.

Horn: Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamic: **p**. Articulation: grace notes.

173

G As before; elegiac $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

Ft. **p** (tutti)

Vln. I

Vln. II first stand S.P.

Vla. **pp** **mfz**

Vc. (non div.) div. **mfp**

Db. **pp** **mfp**

G As before; elegiac $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

Hp. *sempre L.V.*

178

Ft. **mf** **pp (echo)** **3** **mp** **3** **3**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

183

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

tutti

IV

p

cresc.

mf

f



188

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

IV III

p

mf

IV III

mp

IV III

mp

III II

mp

III II

mf

f

f

f

f

mf

f

mf

f

193

Fl.

Vln. I (sim.) div. unis. fff unis.

Vln. II (sim.) ff div. unis. fff unis.

Vla. (sim.) ff unis. fff pizz. arco

Vc. pizz. 3 arco

Db. pizz. 3 arco

Hp.

H ...the cry of triumph which his lips withheld left his brain...

With forward motion $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

199

Fl.

Vln. I S.P. pp

Vln. II S.P. pp

Vla. S.P. pp

Vc. S.P. pp

Db. S.P. pp

Hp.

H With forward motion $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

202

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

N

p cresc.

N

p cresc.

N

Db.

p cresc.

mp cresc.

mf

mf

mf

Hp.

mf

==

poco accel.

209

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

N

mp

N

mp

f

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

poco accel.

mp

Hp.

(♩ = ca. 63, ♪ = ca. 126)

Fl. 213 L'istesso tempo; angrily

Vln. I ff defiant

Vln. II pizz. arco pizz.

Vla. pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

Vc. pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

D. b. pizz. sfz sfz sfz

Hp. f mf L'istesso tempo; angrily

Fl. 218 arco 3 3 5 3 3

Vln. I sfz pizz. arco

Vln. II arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

Vla. sfz pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

Vc. sfz pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

D. b. sfz sfz sfz

Hp. sfz sfz sfz

223

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

fp

sfz *mf*

fp

fp

fp

fp

fp

pizz.

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

f

IV

III

f

arco

f



230

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

f

f

pizz.

236

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

Hp.



242

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Db.

Hpn.

Fl.

248

Vln. I

sfs

Vln. II

sfs

Vla.

sfs

Vc.

sfs

D. b.

sfs

Hp.

=

Fl.

253

Vln. I

sfs

Vln. II

sfs

Vla.

sfs

Vc.

sfs

D. b.

sfs

Hp.

I ...*lightnings of so clear a splendour that in those moments the world perished about his feet...*

CADENZA: Freely, rhapsodically $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 48 - 54$

A musical score for Flute (Fl.). The page shows a single melodic line on a staff. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. There are sixteenth-note grace notes and sixteenth-note patterns. Measure numbers 6, 6, and 3 are indicated above the staff. The tempo is marked as *tr* (trill).

Slightly faster, moving forward

Singily faster, moving forward

Fl.

mf

ff

268 **K** Slowly; tenderly ♩ = ca. 54

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

K Slowly; tenderly ♩ = ca. 54
mf *espressivo*

273

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

277

poco rit. A tempo

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

p

solo, via sord.

mf espressivo

p

p

p

p

p

first desk

pp

p

tutti

p

p

p

poco rit. A tempo



281

Fl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

p

mf

tutti (con sord.)

p

p

p

p

286

poco rit.

L Slower, as at first ♩ = ca. 48

Fl. via sord. **p** poco a poco cresc.

Vln. I first desk **pp** via sord. **tutti** **p** poco a poco cresc.

Vln. II via sord. **p** poco a poco cresc.

Vla. via sord. **p** poco a poco cresc. **mf** (sempre cresc.)

Vc. via sord. (non div.) **p** poco a poco cresc. **mf** (sempre cresc.)

Db. via sord. **p** poco a poco cresc. **mf** (sempre cresc.)

Hp. **p** poco rit. **L** Slower, as at first ♩ = ca. 48 **p** **mf**



291

Fl. **mf** (sempre cresc.) **f** (sempre cresc.) **ff**

Vln. I **mf** (sempre cresc.) **f** (sempre cresc.) **ff** non div. **fff**

Vln. II **mf** (sempre cresc.) **f** (sempre cresc.) **ff** **fff**

Vla. **f** (sempre cresc.) **ff** **fff**

Vc. **f** (sempre cresc.) **ff** **fff**

Db. **f** (sempre cresc.) **ff** **fff**

Hp. **f** **ff**

Musical score page 31. The score consists of six staves: Flute (Fl.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Cello (Vcl.), Double Bass (Db.), and Bassoon (Hp.). The time signature is 2/4 throughout. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (pianissimo). Performance instructions like "first desk" are also present. The score shows various musical notes and rests across the six staves.

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