

UCLA
Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

eleison

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5h34g7vz>

Author

Zhu, Julie

Publication Date

2020

eleison

for solo instrument

dedicated to Issei Herr

J.ZHU (2020)

...

Much that is beautiful must be discarded
So that we may resemble a taller

Impression of ourselves. Moths climb in the flame,
Alas, that wish only to be the flame:

They do not lessen in our stature.
We twinkle under the weight

Of indiscretions. But how could we tell
That of the truth we know, she was

The somber vestment? For that night, rockets sighed
Elegantly over the city, and there was feasting:

There is so much in that moment!
So many attitudes toward that flame,

We might have soared from earth, watching her glide
Aloft, in her peplum of bright leaves.

But she, of course, was only an effigy
of indifference, a miracle

Not meant for us, as the leaves are not
Winter's because it is the end.

...

John Ashbery, *Illustration*

Background:

eleison is a prayer, a practice,
an acknowledgement of what has come and what will.
♥ ♪ seraph of souls.

...

Performance Notes:

There are 12 characters, cosmos, contours.
They are cut from the same cloth.
Given this, individual characters can be worlds apart.

The structure of the improvisation involves iteration.
You will play through all the characters four times.
Orient top down, right left.

For the first iteration, play through each character for 3 seconds,
with ample space in between; the second orientation, 5 seconds;
the third, 8 seconds; fourth, 11 seconds.
Always with ample space between each utterance.

Pitch & noise are encouraged in equal measure, and allow the
memory of previous iterations to be re-animated. Project the
score for the audience if possible, or print the entirety as a
postcard. If printed, please remove any white border.



