

Alvin Leung

Suffocating Sweetness

(2020)
for B \flat clarinet solo

Duration: 4.5 minutes

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Performance Note

Accidentals: every accidental in this piece is only effective to the single note that it is notated next to. The only exception is the second to last system, which “all F#s” and “all G#s” are written.

 Trills: rapid slurred alternation between the notated starting note, and the small note bracketed next to it. A bracketed note with the same pitch implies a timbral trill achieved by alternative fingerings.

Distortion: to alternate between the “standard” and any “alternative” fingering of the same pitch randomly, but with an irregular rhythm, to produce a distortion-like sonic effect. The rhythm on the score is only a suggested pattern. Rather than playing them precisely, it could be rather treated as an indication of “short” and “long” rhythm, like the Morse code. Performers are also welcome to improvise rhythmic patterns that makes up to an approximate duration of three quarter notes as a substitution.

Alternative fingerings: there is no specific alternative fingerings required to produce the techniques involving alternative fingerings in the piece, as here, the coloristic effects (i.e. timbral trills, distortion) is more a focus, instead of a demand of specific microtonal pitches.

Tempo and rhythm: as a solo piece, *Suffocating Sweetness* allows room for performers to take time more freely and flexibly to achieve expressive purpose. Although some rhythm are seemingly notated meticulously, especially the tuplets in Section B, they are only showing approximately how fast is the passage without changing the metronome marking, and therefore it is not expected to play those phrases with utterly precise accuracy. Such idea is also expressed with “Tempo rubato” in the beginning of Section B.

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A Mellow ♩ = 30 (♩ = 60)

tr *pp* *pp* *f* *p*

tr *f* *p* *f* *mf* *ff* *pp*

tr *ff* *sfz* *pp* 3

tr *warm mf* *f* 3 3 *p* *sfz*

tr *fp* *fp* *fp* *ppp* *ff* 3 *fff*

B Lush, Tempo rubato (♩ = ca. 60, ♪ = ca. 120)

p *ff* *ppp*

p *mf*

p *mf* *p* *f*

p *f* *p*

ff *p*

p *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

f *p* *ff*

