
TARRARE

for

Alto Sax, Piano, Voice, Guitar, and Double Bass

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2020

WRITTEN
April 2020
Memphis, TN

for

Alto Sax
Piano
Voice
Guitar
Double Bass

Aprox. 5 minutes in duration

Written for Crosstown Arts Against the Grain to help support
Memphis musicians during the COVID-19 pandemic

PROGRAM NOTES

Tarrare aims to capture the specific, surreal kind of loneliness resulting from the need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though it was written for distanced performers to record individually, my hope is that it offers a brief moment of togetherness. The piece is named after an 18th century French showman who's unique affliction caused him to eat without ever becoming full and forced him to live a life in isolation.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The guitar part is written in Drop D tuning (D-A-D-G-B-E) and calls for a set of extended techniques using writing pens and a bass or cello bow.

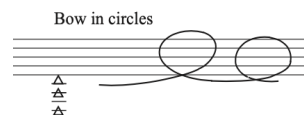
The first pen gesture requires the player to place a generic plastic pen on the third fret under the A (V) string such that it is held in place with the dull end resting lightly on the higher D string (IV). When notated, the player should lightly hit the protruding end of the pen to create a sustained, metallic chord as the pen bounces against the open D strings. This “pen slap” gesture is notated with x noteheads. For example:



The second gesture asks the player to use a separate pen to “bow” an open string by rubbing the pen perpendicular to the string, in and out of the sound hole. The resulting sound should have a metallic buzzing or sawing quality. This gesture is notated as a tremolo over square noteheads. For example:



Finally, one section of the piece asks the guitarists to use a cello or bass bow to bow the bottom strings in a circular motion. Though similar to the pen bowing technique, this gesture offers a more aggressive timbre. The player may find it helpful to mute the strings with the left hand to improve control. This gesture is notated with a swirling line emerging from triangle noteheads. For example:



TEXT

I am
feeling larger than what's around me and still too small.

Where does the
furniture go
when
I close my eyes?

I wake, flutter in circles, legs stiff and voiceless, settle back in.

How long can you
eat dust and
never be
filled 'till
Your cushions grow in?

too small to reach you, too large to move

Tarrare

♩ = 64

Alto Sax

Piano

Voice

Guitar

Double Bass

bow on bridge-
light, raspy sound

D.B.

Gtr.

D.B.

A. Sx.

Gtr.

D.B.

21

A. Sx.

Gtr.

D.B.

pizz.

mf

A

26

A. Sx.

Pno.

Gtr.

D.B.

mp

p

30

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

mf

Pen tremolo

p

mf

p

I am feel - ing large - er than what's a - round

35

A. Sx. *mf*

Pno. *p* *8va*

V. me and still too small. Where does the

Gtr. *p* *mf*

D.B.

40

A. Sx.

Pno. *8va*

V. fur - ni - ture go when I close my eyes?

Gtr. *Improvise swells with pen trill, add pen slaps as desired*

D.B.

45

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

mp

f

I _____ wake, flut - ter _____ in cir -

50

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

mf

cles, legs stiff _____ and voice - less, _____ set - tle back in _____

B

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

55

8va

8va

55

How long can you eat dust

55

Bow in circles

△
△
△

Improvise bowing
cresc. poco a poco
add pen slaps as desired

55

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

59

59

59

59

59

and ne - ver be filled 'till your cush - ions grow in

mp

f

8va-1

*

f

63

A. Sx.

f

Pno.

V.

aa aa aa

Gtr.

8

D.B.

67

A. Sx.

f

Pno.

f

8^{va}

V.

too small to reach you

Gtr.

8

ff

mf

D.B.

10
70

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

too large to move aa

Improvise swells with pen trill, cresc. poco a poco

gva-----
sc.

73

A. Sx.

Pno.

V.

Gtr.

D.B.

aa aa aa aa aa

gva-----

ff

A. Sax. 76

Pno. 76
let ring
(8^{va})

V. 76

Gtr. 76
8
ff

D.B. 76
mp
let ring

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for five instruments: Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (V.), Guitar (Gtr.), and Double Bass (D.B.). It begins at measure 76. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The A. Sax. part features a melodic line with a slur over measures 76-78. The Pno. part has a bass line with a slur and the instruction 'let ring' above it, and a dashed line labeled '(8^{va})' below it. The V. part has a single note in measure 76. The Gtr. part has a rhythmic pattern of slashes in measure 76, followed by a chord with a slur and the instruction 'ff' below it. The D.B. part has a melodic line with a slur and the instruction 'mp' below it, and another slur with the instruction 'let ring' above it in measure 78. A small asterisk symbol is located between the Pno. and V. staves.