

Gareth Moorcraft

Ways things go
for solo clarinet in Bb

2021

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Ways things go is one of a collection of 200 solo pieces commissioned to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022. The premiere performance was given by James Gilbert at the Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, on 9th November 2021.

Notes:

In senza misura bars, accidentals apply only to the note which directly follows

Duration: ca. 5 mins

About the work:

This piece was loosely inspired by Fischli and Weiss's art film *The way things go*, which presents a causal 'chain reaction' (something like a Rube Goldberg machine) featuring everyday objects and industrial materials. The starting point for the work was an exploration of similar chain reactions which connect apparently unrelated musical events into a continuous line. As the piece unfolds, short motivic starting points are progressively explored and transformed, sometimes appearing in radically different, distorted forms. Much of the material was developed in a free and improvisatory way, working with approximate musical shapes and contours which could be revisited in different modal/harmonic contexts throughout the piece.

To James Gilbert...

Ways things go

Mysterious, obsessively circling ♩ = ca. 144

[Very soft, but emphasise the crescendi, as if trying to escape the *pp* / *ppp* dynamic, but never succeeding]

Gareth Moorcraft (2020)

(*very short gaps (*agitato*) - a 'broken legato' effect)

Clarinet in B♭

pp *ppp* *molto* *pp* *poco* *ppp*

pp *molto* *pp* *poco* *ppp* *ppp* *molto*

p *molto* *mf:p* *molto* *mf* *p* *molto* (*mf*)

ppp *molto* *mp* *molto* *sf* *mp* *molto* *ppp*

(a tempo) ♩ = ca. 144 *p* *p* *p* *molto* ♩ = 112-120 *mp legg. playful* ♩ = ca. 144 *mf (quasi legato)*

poco string. ♩ = 112-120 *p* *p* *mp molto* *mp legg. playful*

poco accel. Fast, skittish ♩ = ca. 160 [+] pushing forwards *p* *molto* *f molto agitato* *Breathless! With a random/irregular feel*

Freeze! poco *p* *ppp*

Subito tempo 1 = ca. 144

Flexible, busy but not rushed

poco accel.

p *f* *energico* (*poco legg.*) *p*

a tempo *accel.* *a tempo* *accel.* *a tempo*
ff *sf sf sf sf* (*molto!*) *p* *molto* *sf sf sf sf sf* (*sim.*)

Fast flurries
pp *mfp* *pp* *ffp* *mfp*

p (*poco più marc.*) *ffp* *ffp* *mfp* *f*

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *molto*

A tempo (suddenly more measured)
poco f *mf* *mf* *p* *p*

fff *con forza (senza dim.)* *ca. 2 secs* (*quasi legato, emphasise last note*)

Eerie = 132-144 (*very flexible, linger a little on the higher vib. notes*)
flz. *ppp* *ppp* *ord. molto vib.* *ord.* *p* *ppp*
murmurando *marc. - clear accent at start of note (always for higher vib. notes)*

ppp *p (sim.)* *ppp*