

Preview File Only

**SEVEN SCENES
FOR
DOUBLE BASS**

BY JULIA USHER

Primavera

Exits and Entrances: Seven Scenes for DOUBLE BASS

***based on Jacques' Speech,
All the World's a Stage,
from Shakespeare's As You Like It.***

This theatre piece was originally composed for a gathering of composers at York University, and performed as an interlude in a concert programme, by Barry Guy.

He placed a contact microphone on the tailpiece of the bass, and wired this to an amplifier, activated by a foot pedal, to augment the sound in certain key places. This option is indicated in red in the score.

The performer needs to enter into the theatrical spirit of the piece, and to act the roles of each stage of life, particularly through facial expression and body language.

Sections written in open-head notation with long ligatures joining the values are to be played freely, but relative to each other in duration.

Notes which appear to have no notehead should be freely pitched, often following speech rhythms and contours of intonation.

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Exits and Entrances: A Theatre Piece in Seven Scenes. Scene 1: Babe

The Player is discovered drooped over his instrument. He is gripped by a JERK, whereat he begins playing, still bent over to reach the tailpiece.

Double bass

Sobbing

fz *fz* *fz* *mf* (inhale)

Short silence.
Player glances round,
fairly fast, unfocused

Db.

even longer

fz *mf*

Db.

mp (inhale)

A

mp (inhale)

Db.

top string

fz *fz* *fz* *f*

Db.

attacca

10 9 8

fz *f* *mf* slower, further

fz *f* *mf* slower, further

Player raises head, Very slowly looks round, above head, round again. Unfocussed.

B

parlando

looks

"mewling, puking"

Db.

mp

mp

Looks round, but seems to focus and fix here and there this time.

Half smile

nat.

mf

mp

15

gliss

Db.

mp

cooing

uneven

Db.

p

mp

looks round, focussing

C

trem

sul pont.

Db.

pp

mf

mf

very smooth, but irregular. not too fast

vibr

20

etc

hard pizz.

mf

arco

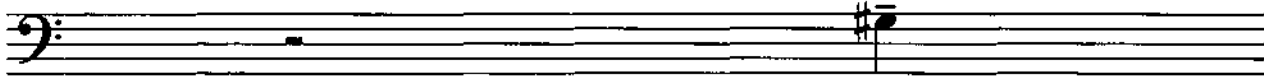
pp

murmuring

senza sord.

Db.

Looks suddenly forward

Db. 
pizz. fz arco

more articulate

Db. 
mf mf

D

parlando

Wrinkles up face

Db. 
mf mf mp

As before, sobbing

inhale

Db. 
f

Scene 2: Schoolboy

Player straightens up a bit, sniffs, swings unsupported leg on stool, perhaps taps knee on bass.

He looks a bit ungainly, hitches trousers, flicks hair back, etc

Looks round, aimless.

Double bass

Brisk

Db.

f

As if whistling

tuneless

rall...

Readjusts position on Bass. "Unwillingly" sighs. .

A

Heavy skip. .

Db.

mf pesante

B Dragging

Rolls eyes up, sighs

Db.

Rit...

sfz

sfz

mf

10 Accel

Faster skipping

Db.

mp marcato

C

Db. *mp* *Accel* *Molto accel* *f*

Db. *ff* *Heavy* *Rall...* *sfz* *tr*

Looks bored, shrugs

Db. *mf* *rit...* *Senza Misura* *mf* *mf*

"creep..."

D

Db. *p* *mf* *mp*

Complaining..

Db. *mf* *mf*

Looks fed up..

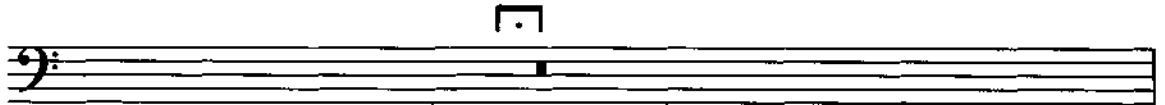
careless

Db. *Desultory..* *Daydreams..* *Casual Whistle..*

Scene Three: The Lover

Still daydreaming, his eye falls on Bass itself. Looks suddenly at audience.

Double bass



Jumps down, holding Bass out sideways, and looks it up and down appreciatively.

Slips arms round it experimentally

Db.



Quick sigh himself, smiles

Senza Misura

(rolls eyes)

vib, very slow sigh
Lovely tone

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8 sensuous
gliss.
top string

Db.



A

The following must be acted as pleading with the instrument

Db.



Db.



Db. closes eyes, sensuous gliss. fairly fast B dreamily 10 audible sigh pizz. arco *mp*

Db. sigh *pp*

Db. Thinks pizz. rit fade etc

Db. Clears throat arco col leg.

C

As if writing poetry.
Sits up straight.

Db. *arco* *mf* *Expressively declamatory*

15 *rubato*

shakes head.,
scrubs out violently

coughs

Restarts, more assured

Db. *f* *col leg.* *nat* *Tenderly* *mf* *rubato*

Closes eyes, exaggeratedly sweet

D

Db. *mf* *Press on* *rall* *p* *pp* *tender*

20

gets fed up again

E

Db. *cresc.* *harsh bowing* *accel*

3 3 3

Db. *ff* **Punishes himself** **F** **Much more like speech:** *Moderato* Tenor range *mp*

Observe pitch rises and falls with portamenti etc- imitate sonnet delivery.

Db. *p* *mf* *mf* *allarg*

Db. *mf* *poco f* *allarg*

Db. *mf* *mp* *Faster* *smooth* *round off* **Nods vigorously** **Lays head on Bass shoulder, runs finger idly round body curve.** *Duration 1'43"*

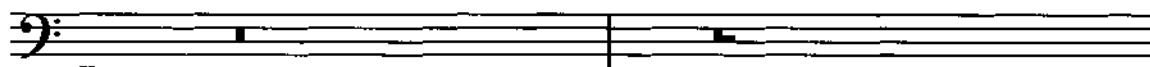
Scene Four: The Soldier

Starts out of reverie,
rushes about polishing bow with duster,
rosining it, trying it in fast trem,
screwing it tight, etc.

Dusts and polishes
(with spit) body of bass.

Presto

Double bass



Tunes it furiously.

Db.



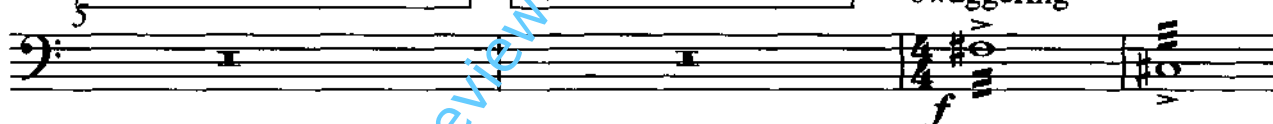
Now ready, he stands to
attention proudly,
bow over R. shoulder..

Remembers to stroke
"beard" tidy;
resumes attention.

A

Vigorous, alla Marcia,
swaggering

Db.



Db.



B

Db.



Db.

