

William Grosvenor Neil

Canis Lupus-Lamentation

for Eb Clarinet and Digital Acoustics

(2024)



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Program Notes

Canis Lupus-Lamentation for Piccolo Clarinet and Digital Acoustics laments the loss of wolves that have been reintroduced in the wild over the last 20 years. Specifically I was inspired by the Alpha wolf, referred to as “06”, who thrived in Yellowstone National Park, raising her cubs against all odds, including predators and competing wolf packs. In addition to the recorded sounds of wolves edited and compiled to create diverse sonorities, the digital part also includes the sounds of the multi-chambered clay whistle, a terra cotta whistle in the shape of a human skull, and an overtone flute that was crafted specifically for this piece by a Serbian flute maker. These ancient forms of human musical expression blend with the primal sounds of the wolves in the wild. In the climatic section of the piece, where the clarinet reaches its highest pitch and the digital acoustic swells dynamically, the music alludes emotionally to the death of “06” shot by a lone hunter who selfishly pursued the celebrated wolf as trophy of defiance for rights of hunters.

Performance Notes

The digital acoustic consisting of a single .wav file, can be played on a media player program on a Mac or PC computer. The computer should ideally be connected to an interphase device with stereo TRS outputs to a mixer with outputs to an amplified stereo sound system with high quality speakers. This would render the most high fidelity reproduction of sound that would full realize the acoustic richness of the digital recording. The .wav file should begin simultaneously with the clarinet’s first notes. The beginning section of the clarinets part, from a capo to letter B, requires the clarinet to play into a dedicated microphone patched into a channel in the mixer with a medium concert hall reverb.

Duration: 7 minutes

dedicated to Fátima Boix

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Clarinet live electronics : medium concert hall reverb

♩ = 180

Clarinet in Eb

ppp

Start Digital Audio

15^{ma}-----]

(echo)

00:00 00:05 00:14 00:20 00:30

DA Whistles

(echo)

DA Wolves

Note: accidentals remain in effect for each system of the score.

B

f

3

00:57

Wild Yelping

3

p *f* *p*

(echo)

01:04 01:11 01:16

Wolves Barking

f *ff*

Wolves Yelping

f *ff*

Wolves Whining

f *ff*

Wolves Whining

f *ff*

Wolves Whining

D

01:48

Wolf Chorus

pp *f*

E

02:11 02:14 02:20 02:24

Whistle harmonic gliss.

Wolves Howl-Whinnying

Wolf Chorus

F

02:38

Wolf Chorus

02:55

Vocalized Whining

Wolf Chorus

Vocalized Whining

03:13

Wolf Chorus

Cascading Howling

G

p *f* *pp*

03:38

H

03:44

Whining and Snarling

ff

Percussive Bark

04:08

04:17

04:20

Wolf Chorus

Wolf Chorus

04:31

Wolf Chorus

04:38

Whining

04:42

Vocalized Yelping

04:46

Howling

Section I

Death Whistle

pp *f* *p*

Drumming

04:50

Section J

ff

05:08 05:17

Wolf solo howl

mp

Clicking

4

pp

ppp

05:31

Unison howling

ppp

Hold until gun shots fade away

Gun Shots

Whining

Gun Shots

niente