

Commissioned by and written for Melissa Doecke and Ben Opie of Inveni Ensemble
premiered at the Melbourne Recital Centre, 3 July 2017.

October in the Chair

For Chamber Ensemble

Duration approx. 8 minutes

Sample

Melody Eötvös (2017)

melodyeotvos.com



Program Notes

Based on Neil Gaiman's short story *October in the Chair*, this work parallels the whimsical yet dark undertones of what is essentially a Graveyard story. This particular tale personifies each month of the year into a group of twelve people who are having their monthly meeting around a campfire. The current month is October to lead. After settling in and asking if anyone has a story to tell (which no one does, that hasn't been told before or is substantial enough to tell fully), October begins to tell his. I won't recall it all for you here, but a very brief and cruel summary would be that a young boy, named "The Runt", runs away from his family who treats him poorly. He meets a ghost in a graveyard and decides that he'd prefer to die and stay with the ghost (who played with him kindly all afternoon) than return to his family. Sad? Yes. However the way it is told and the setting portrayed by the months has an unmistakable playfulness full of animated conversation and characters. This composition focuses mostly on those characters, leaving a centered 'serious' section of the music for the dark reality of "The Runt's" situation. It doesn't last long though as the momentum picks up again into the final moments of the piece. Another interesting consequence of this work was my recent aural saturation of lullabies and music set heavily in major tonalities, due to the birth of my son and my daily efforts to get him to sleep with calming 'classic' baby music. Unaware of how much I'd absorbed of those pretty little tunes, the writing of this work once again revealed my susceptibility to what I listen to!

October in the Chair

For Chamber Ensemble

Melody Eötvös (2017)

♩ = 152

Flute

Oboe

Harp

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

5

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

molto sul pont.

ppp

molto sul tasto

sim.

molto sul tasto

ppp

mp

ppp

9 **A**

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont.(glassy) *mp* *pp* *sul tasto*

13

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

glassy *sul pont.* *sul tasto*

pp

16

B

Fl. *mp* *f* *p*

Ob. *mp*

Hp.

Vln. *mp* *ord.*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *ppp*

19

"t"

Fl. *ppp* *mf*

Ob. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Hp. *f* *p*

Vln. *mf* *pp*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *pizz* *f*

23 ----- "t" C

Fl. *ppp* *mp*

Ob.

Hp.

Vln. *p* *sul pont.*

Vla. *p* *(pizz)*

Vc. *f*

27

Fl.

Ob.

Hp. *f*

Vln. *f* *p* *ppp*

Vla. *sul tasto* *ppp*

Vc. *arco sul tasto* *ppp* *sim.* *mp*

70

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont.

f

sul pont.

f

sul pont.

f

74

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

f

p

p

sul tasto

pp

sul tasto

pp

sul tasto

pp

ord.

f

ord.

f

ord.

f

I

78

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f *p* *f* *p*

sub p *sub p* *sub p*

sul tasto *sul tasto* *sul tasto*

82

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *p* *f*

f *p* *f* *p*

ord. *ord.* *ord.*

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

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

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

94

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

ff *ff* *ff*

98 **K**

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

ff

K

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont. *sul pont.* *sul tasto* *pp*

sul pont. *sul tasto* *pp*

pp

162

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

S

ord.

sul tasto

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

166

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

mf

ppp

mf

ppp

f

p

fp

ppp

f

p

fp

ppp

f

p

fp

ppp

October in the Chair - Full Score

172 **T** ♩ = 120

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

senza sord
ord.

senza sord
ord.

senza sord
pizz

176

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

gliss.

sim.

sul D

sul pont.

gliss.

180

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

sul pont.

ord.

arco

mp

ppp

ppp

183

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

pp

pp

ff

U $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
G.P.

ord.

ppp

U $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
G.P.

sul tasto

f *p*

187 *poco accel.*

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Hp. *f* *mp*

poco accel.
sim.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

A musical score for measures 187-189. The Flute (Fl.) and Oboe (Ob.) parts feature melodic lines with accents. The Flute starts at measure 187 with a *mf* dynamic. The Oboe enters at measure 188 with a *mf* dynamic. The Harp (Hp.) plays chords, starting with a *f* dynamic and then *mp*. The Violin (Vln.) part has a fast, continuous sixteenth-note pattern, marked *poco accel.* and *sim.* (sustained). The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts are silent.

190

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

sul pont.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

A musical score for measures 190-192. The Flute (Fl.) and Oboe (Ob.) parts continue their melodic lines. The Harp (Hp.) plays chords. The Violin (Vln.) part continues its fast sixteenth-note pattern, marked *sul pont.* (sul ponticello). The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts are silent.

236 **Z**

Fl. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Hp. *p*

Z

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

240

Fl. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Hp.

Vln. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

AA

243

Fl. *f* G.P. *p*

Ob. *f* G.P. *p*

Hp. *ff* G.P. *f* *pp*

Vln. *mp* G.P. *p*

Vla. *mp* G.P. *p*

Vc. *mp* G.P. *fp*

AA

247

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Hp.

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc.

250

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

253

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

ff