

**Paul Archbold**

**a little night music**

**for oboe and live electronics**

Music Extracts  
(used with permission)

# Paul Archbold

## a little night music

### oboe and live electronics

*a little night music* recalls one of my nightmarish visions as a child. From the insistent and piercing scream of the opening to the unearthly oboe multiphonics and exotic dawn chorus of the close, the work was written to exploit the virtuosity of the commissioner, oboist Christopher Redgate. The work builds on a research collaboration to realise contemporary works for oboe and live electronics with new computer technology, and create new work and exploits the 'extended techniques' developed by Redgate: the extreme high register, quarter-tone fingerings, sustained multiphonics and circular breathing.

The melodic writing adapts the constructive techniques of my earlier work *Traces*, employing quarter-tone pitch-class-sets related to the interval set <1,1,2,3>. A melody is created from overlapping these sets which resembles a keening lament of narrow range. In the second half of the work the sustained multiphonic sonorities are unfolded as a pitch resource for short chromatic flurries suggesting exotic birdsong.

The work builds on several years of my research into the Max/MSP programming language. The computer program I developed is used to capture and process brief fragments of the oboe line and create a dense chorus of simulacra and distorted replicas. A particular feature of this program is the control architecture that allows fragments to be employed in a precisely co-ordinated and interactive performance.

*a little night music* was commissioned by Christopher Redgate with funds from the Britten-Pears Foundation and first performed in the British Music Information Centre's 'Cutting Edge' Series at The Warehouse in London on 21 October, 2004. It has received six further performances including at the RADAR festival, Mexico City on 21 April, 2005 and the Randspiele Zepernick in Berlin on 1 July, 2007, and was broadcast on Mexico Radio.

*a little night music* has been recorded for issue on the Metier label in 2009.

#### Live electronics

The live electronics is implemented by a Max/MSP patch available from the composer.

Minimum specification:

- MacBook Pro, 2.4 GHz Intel Core Duo, 2 GB RAM
- Apple OS X 10.4.11 or later
- Max/MSP 4.6.3 or later
- MIDI fader box with at least 16 faders (e.g. Peavey 1600X)
- MIDI keyboard (at least 2 octaves)
- MIDI interface with at least 2 ports
- Audio interface (1 input, 4 outputs preferred)
- 1 microphone for oboe (e.g. DPA IMK 4061)
- IRCAM Spat, spatialiser program (optional)
- Diffusion over at least 4 speakers, surrounding the audience, is preferred



Bar 236 -315. These multiphonics are harmonically significant. The duration here is approximate: multiphonics should emerge and fade within the bar.

|  |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|--|----|---|----|----|---|----|
|  | 87 | 9 | 28 | 25 | 7 | 34 |
| Conservatoire system (Veale/Mahnkopf)            |    |   |    |    |   |    |
| English thumb-plate system equivalents (Redgate) |    |   |    |    |   |    |

|  |    |    |    |     |    |
|--|----|----|----|-----|----|
|  | 35 | 44 | 61 | 105 | 97 |
| Conservatoire system (Veale/Mahnkopf)            |    |    |    |     |    |
| English thumb-plate system equivalents (Redgate) |    |    |    |     |    |

# a little night music oboe

Paul Archbold

Andante ♩ = 67

live electronics

Oboe

*f*

*f*

*f*

**A**

**A**

Music Example 1 (opening section, b 1-7)

235 **U**

ad lib. (place multiphonics freely in the bar)

**U** 87 9 28 25 7

*p*

240

34 35

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

244

3 44 61

*mf* *p* *mf*

248

105 97 87 **V** 87 **V** 87

*p* *mf* *p*

252

*mf*

255

7 87

*mf* *p*

257

34 9

*mf* *p*

Music Example 2 (final section, b 235-340)

259 44

*mf* *p*

262 87

*mf* *p*

264 *mf*

265

266 W

28 W

*p* *mf*

268 9

269

270

271 7

*mf*

272 34

*mf* *p*

274

*mf*

This system contains two staves of music for measures 274 and 275. The upper staff features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and ties. The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first staff.

276

25

*p* *mf*

This system contains two staves of music for measures 276 and 277. The upper staff has a melodic line with some rests in measure 276. The lower staff features a complex accompaniment with many sixteenth notes. A box containing the number '25' is located above the first staff. Dynamic markings *p* and *mf* are present.

278

61

*p* *mf*

This system contains two staves of music for measures 278 and 279. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs. The lower staff has an accompaniment with many sixteenth notes. A box containing the number '61' is located above the first staff. Dynamic markings *p* and *mf* are present.

280

105

*p*

This system contains two staves of music for measures 280 and 281. The upper staff has a melodic line with many sixteenth notes. The lower staff has an accompaniment with many sixteenth notes. A box containing the number '105' is located above the first staff. The dynamic marking *p* is present.

281

This system contains two staves of music for measures 281 and 282. Both staves feature dense accompaniment with many sixteenth notes.

282

This system contains two staves of music for measures 282 and 283. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs. The lower staff has an accompaniment with slurs and ties.



283 **X**

Musical notation for measures 283-284, system 1. The top staff contains four measures of music with a box labeled 'X' above the first measure. The bottom staff contains four measures of music with a box labeled 'X' above the first measure. Both staves feature complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed notes and rests.

284

Musical notation for measures 284-285, system 2. The top staff contains four measures of music. The bottom staff contains four measures of music. The notation continues with complex rhythmic patterns and beamed notes.

285

Musical notation for measures 285-286, system 3. The top staff contains four measures of music. The bottom staff contains four measures of music. The notation continues with complex rhythmic patterns and beamed notes.

286

Musical notation for measures 286-287, system 4. The top staff contains four measures of music with long, sweeping melodic lines. The bottom staff contains four measures of music with more complex rhythmic patterns.

287

Musical notation for measures 287-288, system 5. The top staff contains four measures of music with complex rhythmic patterns. The bottom staff contains four measures of music with complex rhythmic patterns.

288

Musical notation for measures 288-289, system 6. The top staff contains four measures of music with complex rhythmic patterns. The bottom staff contains four measures of music with complex rhythmic patterns.

289

Musical notation for measures 289-290. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals). The lower staff contains a bass line with similar rhythmic patterns and accidentals. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 290.

290

Musical notation for measures 290-291. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff features a more active bass line with many beamed sixteenth notes. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 291.

291

Musical notation for measures 291-292. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff has a bass line with beamed sixteenth notes. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 292.

292

Musical notation for measures 292-293. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff has a very active bass line with many beamed sixteenth notes. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 293.

293

Musical notation for measures 293-294. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff has a very active bass line with many beamed sixteenth notes. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 294.

294

Musical notation for measures 294-295. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff has a very active bass line with many beamed sixteenth notes. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 295.

295

Musical notation for measures 295-296. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff has a very active bass line with many beamed sixteenth notes. A slur is present over the final notes of the upper staff in measure 296.

296

Musical notation for measures 296-297. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents.

297

Musical notation for measures 297-298. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents.

298

Musical notation for measures 298-299. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents.

299

Musical notation for measures 299-300. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents. A box labeled 'Y' is present in the left margin.

301

Musical notation for measures 301-302. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents.

302

Musical notation for measures 302-303. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents.

303

Musical notation for measures 303-304. The top staff contains a series of eighth-note chords with slurs and accents. The bottom staff contains a similar rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents.

304

Musical notation for measures 304-305. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The lower staff contains four measures, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The notes are primarily in the upper register of the treble clef.

305

Musical notation for measures 305-306. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The lower staff contains four measures, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The notes are primarily in the upper register of the treble clef.

306

Musical notation for measures 306-307. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The lower staff contains four measures, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The notes are primarily in the upper register of the treble clef.

307

Musical notation for measures 307-308. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The lower staff contains four measures, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The notes are primarily in the upper register of the treble clef.

308

Musical notation for measures 308-309. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The lower staff contains four measures, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The notes are primarily in the upper register of the treble clef.

309

Musical notation for measure 309. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The lower staff contains four measures, each starting with a quarter rest followed by a beamed eighth-note pair. The notes are primarily in the upper register of the treble clef.

310 **Z**

Musical notation for measures 310-311. The top staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line with a 'Z' marking above the first measure. The bottom staff (treble clef) contains a complex accompaniment with many beamed notes and slurs.

311

Musical notation for measures 311-312. The top staff (treble clef) continues the melodic line. The bottom staff (treble clef) continues the complex accompaniment.

312

Musical notation for measures 312-313. The top staff (treble clef) features a dense texture of beamed notes. The bottom staff (treble clef) continues the accompaniment.

313

Musical notation for measures 313-314. The top staff (treble clef) has a very dense texture of beamed notes. The bottom staff (treble clef) continues the accompaniment with slurs and accents.

314

Musical notation for measures 314-315. The top staff (treble clef) has a sparse melodic line. The bottom staff (treble clef) continues the complex accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line and a 3/4 time signature.

**AA**

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

**BB**

324

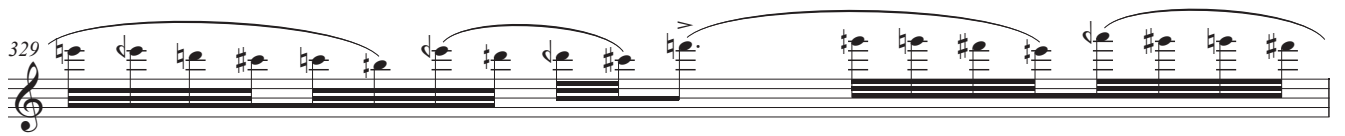
325

326

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330



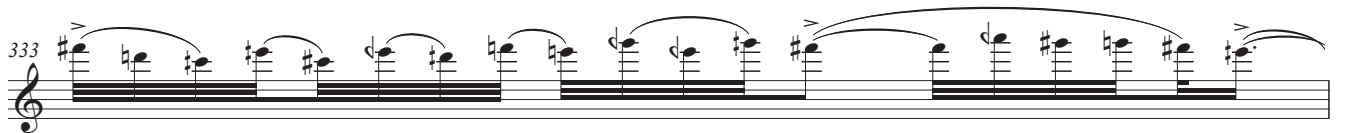
331



332



333



334




CC

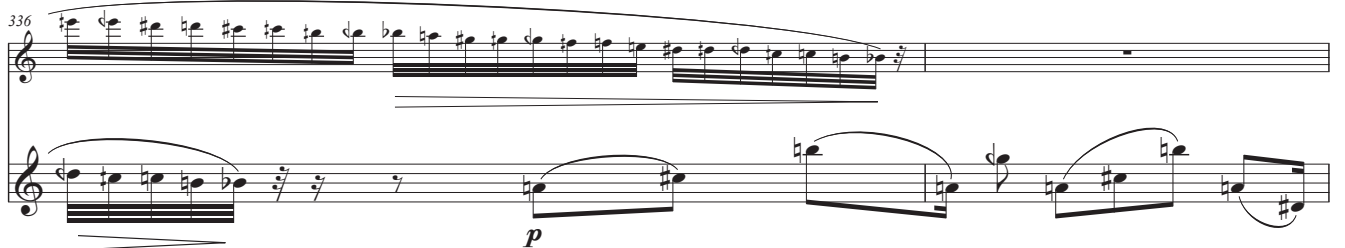
335



CC



336



*p*

338

