

Simon Cummings

**'unredeemed' self-)portrait
(in the form of an eagle**

for solo flute

composed
2008

duration
5 minutes

articulations

↑ = double-tongue ‡ = triple-tongue † = flutter-tongue (with the tongue; not uvular)

+ = key slap ⊕ = key slap (embouchure hole closed; sounding a major seventh lower)

◊ = tongue pizzicato ◆◊ = pitched air ▲ = jet whistle (indefinite pitch; always very high)

Trills are always to be executed using an auxiliary note that is extremely close to (above *or* below) the principal note, while also preserving the audible sense of a trill. To this end, although the result will inevitably incur some timbral change, these should not be regarded as 'timbral trills', as the amount or type of timbral change is unimportant.

For the sake of rhythmic clarity, tremolandi are notated throughout as trills with the alternating pitch shown in brackets. The pair of pitches should sound with equal intensity.

All tonguing, trills & tremolandi are to be played as quickly as possible.

vibrato

Although not specified, vibrato is implied throughout; at no point should a note sound static.

"Unredeemed, untamed, the four creatures symbolise deep disorder and destructiveness, it seems to me. ... Seen in this way, it is a demonic bestiary. ... But it is a truthful mirror of human life. ... It is the place where the masks are off and true faces are revealed. ... it is a hopeless place indeed."

(Michael Sadgrove, *A Picture of Faith*, pp. 113–4)

"... the predatory quality of the eagle ..."

(Graham Sutherland, *The Coventry Tapestry*, p. 54)

"The eagle, looking for prey, is my oppressive side, ready to exploit those who are weaker than I am, impatient with weakness, vulnerability and compassion."

(Michael Sadgrove, *Ibid.*)

for Alexandra Surman

'unredeemed' self-)portrait (in the form of an eagle

SIMON CUMMINGS

♩ = 120 soaring, single-minded, predatory

5 *mp* *pp sub.* *p* *pp sub.*

11 *pp* *p* *pp sub.* *mp*

16 *p* *p* *pp* *ppp*

20 *p* *mp*

23 *pp* *ppp* *pp*

27 *mp* *pp* *p sub.* *pp sub.* *p sub.* *mp sub.*

33 *p sub.* *mp sub.* *p sub.* *mp* *p*

38 *mp sub.* *pp* *p* *ppp*

watchful, by turns still & restless

soaring again: robust & determined

42 *territorial*
3:2 *3:2*
p sub. *ppp* *ben f molto sub.* (*senza dim.*)

46
mp *p* *ppp* *p* *mp sub.*

50
mf sub. *mp* *mf* *p* *mp sub.*

55
p *mf sub.* *p* *mf*

59
p *pp* *ppp* *p*

with sudden violence, agile but brutal
 62 *mf sf sf sf* *mf* *ff* *sf* *sf* *p* *mp*

proclaiming possession *malevolent, energetic: increasingly impatient*
 64 *mp* *ff sub.* *mp* *mf* *mp sub.*

68
mf sub. *f* *mp* *f sub.*

72 *poised*
mp sub. *f sub.* *p* *pp* *ff sub.*

76 abusive yet playful

4:3 3:2 5:4 5:4 3:2 5:4 5:4

tr tr

mp f sf sf ff mp ff sub. sf

79 irascible: agitated & restive

3:2 5:4 3:2 5:4

tr

sf sf sf mf mp mf (random sforzandi)

82

tr

ff (sim.) f mf f sub.

domineering, ever more cold & ruthless

86

3:2 5:4

mf sub. (random sforzandi) pp sub. p f sub.

89 vitriolic

3:2 3:2

tr

mf ff sub. mp ff p ff (7) (7) (7) sff sff

92 looming, puissant

5:4 5:4 5:4

f fff sub. ff f ff

97 sensing victory, full of invective

3:2 5:4 3:2

tr tr tr

f sub. ff fff ff (7) (7) sff

100 ferocious: buzzing with rage

5:4 3:2 3:2

tr tr

guttural, vituperative

tr tr

triumphant!

tr

fff ff fff ff fff sff

* if possible, these final instances of flutter-tonguing (combined with trills) should be executed with a rolled 't' instead of a rolled 'r'

