

# Ode to a Tree

REBECKA SOFIA AHVENNIEMI

2016

For:

Bb clarinet and electronics

Commissioned by Mostly Mozart festival in New York

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## Program notes

The singing voice—heard as fixed sound files during the performance of *Ode to a Tree*—might appear as archaic, performing long vowels and bouncing from chest voice to head voice. While the title itself seems romantic, this work doesn't play along with the codes of romanticized beauty, neither in vocal technique nor in clarinet performance. There is a search for concreteness and nakedness of musical expression, combined with a questioning of what is 'natural.'

The work was first performed in July 2016 at the Mostly Mozart festival by Joshua Rubin in front of the Lincoln Center in the area surrounded by large trees.

## Instructions

Electronics: 6 sound files are set off on cues. The clarinet is also slightly amplified. Stereo speakers are used.

Musical time: When playing with the sound file, the time is indicated in seconds. Using a timer is recommended. The counting restarts in the beginning of each cue. The cues can be launched, for example, by a pedal. The timing is specific where stippled, vertical lines show in the score and where a vowel (occurring on the sound file) is notated above the pitch.



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Transposed score

♩ = ca. 60

# Ode to a Tree

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2016

**Cue 1**

head voice  
*p* ○  
-Inhale-  
g  
Tape  
mmm  
non vibr.  
Micro tones: slight changes in sound colour  
varying intonation  
ord./  $\sharp$   
*ppp* *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*  
16" g  
20" mmm

2  
Tape  
30" **No cue**  
Cl.  
*p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*  
ca. 10" slight changes in colour  
Free length

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## Cue 2

3 *f* chest voice

Tape *p* 13" 17" 18" *f* 20"

Ooo[o:] Ooo

Cl. 8" poco vibr. ord./ *mp* *p*

4 head voice 24" 27" 30" 32" 34" 38"

Tape *mf* *p*

Ooo Ooo Ooo

Cl. *mf* *p* 3

## No cue

(♩ = 60)

5 poco vibr. Free length

Cl. *f* *p* *mp* *p* *f* *p* *mp*

## Cue 3

8 12" 20"

Tape

Ooo

(yiyiyiyiy)

The pitches follow the vowels "y" and "i" on the tape

non vibr.

Cl.

*mp* *f* *mf*

9 25" 28" 37" 40"

Tape

Ooo

(yiyiyiyiy)

Cl.

*mp* *mf* *f* *p*

vibr.

10 50"

Tape

non vibr.

Cl.



*ppp*

Continue directly to the next cue.


4

Cue 4


11 **f** ●

Tape   20"

yi(x14)

Cl. 

**mf** **f** **mp** **p** **ppp**

echo 

5/4

No cue

(♩ = 60)



12 

**p** **pp** **mp** **f** **p** **ppp**

poco vibr. non vibr.

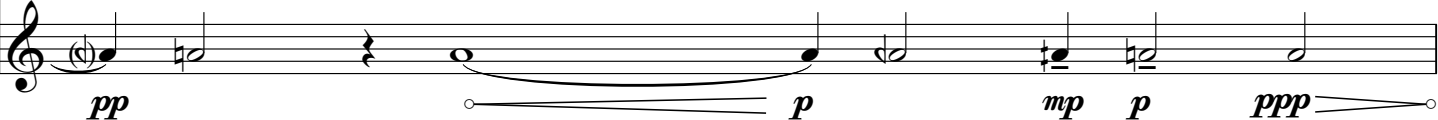
Cue 5

15 ○

Tape   7" 16"

Ooo

y o

Cl. 

**pp** **p** **mp** **p** **ppp**

A natural break

Continue to cue 6.

5"

**ppp** e6 (transp.)



**Cue 6**

16 *p* 9" 20"

Tape

yi(x33) (yi) (11th yi)

7" 13" *poco vibr. on the longer tones.*

Cl. *ppp* *p* *mf*

17 24" 40"

Tape

Continue following the vowels even though they get more vague

Cl. *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mp*

18 42" 47" 1'05"

Tape

echo

Cl. *mf* *p* *poco vibr.* *vibr.* *slight changes in color* *ppp*

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