Taja Astar

Escape

Some Ways of Living Not

for Norrbotten NEO

Score in C
Escape. Some Ways of Living Not
for Norrbotten NEO
By Taja Astar
Score in C
dur. ~15 min.

Performance notes

1. All trills are to be played to the closest diatonic pitch.
2. Dynamic hairpins without given resulting dynamic marks mean slight changes within given dynamics.
3. Piano: free usage of pedal in places when pedal is not specified.
4. Piano: in sections from bar 5 till bar 47 and from bar 85 till bar 108 the piano part can be played as written or improvised while maintaining the general pattern.

Notation for the auxiliary percussion:

Program note

This piece is my attempt to contemplate on the effect of cognitive dissonance and lack of meaning that force people to escape reality in some way. The work consists of six main sections flowing seamlessly one after another, of which one, Running, is recurring and serves as some sort of connecting link between the parts. Escape is to a great extent an intertextual work, referring to several famous tunes, as follows:

Church and Art: Die Internationale, the famous anthem of the international communist party. Its verse is used in the Church section, and its chorus in the Art section. I integrated the tunes into the musical texture to show how ideology can be hidden everywhere, and how both in religion and art one cannot stay apart from politics and how these both can be used as a weapon.

Drugs: Hector Berlioz’ Rakoczy March. Berlioz was, probably, the first composer who attempted at describing the effect of drugs in his music. In Escape, his music is partly used to make a reference to this well-known picture of an unstable state of mind.

War: Beethoven’s “Ode of Joy” from the Ninth. In the piano part, the motif is played in both hands, alternating with a semitone difference, creating an ugly dissonant sound as an image of a heated conflict, when both sides believe that they are on the right side, which results in a complete chaos.

Death: the Happy Birthday song. Many beliefs consider death as a new beginning. So, why not?

Parts of the work
(based on the poem by Anna Astar):

Some Ways of Living Not

Running ever faster, like from fleas,
in an attempt to flee the gnawing dissonance.

Church. Plunging into the tranquillizing absolute.
Piously, inhibiting, telling a fable of bliss.

Art. Playing the elite. The daintiness.
The gleam, like of a marble goldfish pond.

Drugs. Plucking the neon strings,
walking the fuzzy valleys. Glitchily.

War. With a furious glee. The ears shut.
Blasting away on a trumpet dripping blood.
Bull-mindedly.

Escape
Some Ways of Living Not
for Norrbotten NEO

Running ever faster, like from fleas, in an attempt to flee the gnawing dissonance.
\( \frac{3}{4} = \text{c. 152} \)

Taja Astar, 2022
Taja Astur: Escape (Score in C)

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.  

Aux. Perc.  

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

poco a poco rit.

jet whistle

air tone

pedal held down until the sound disappears

42
Church. Plunging into the tranquillizing absolute.
Piously, inhibiting, telling a fable of bliss.
\( \text{\( \text{\( \text{\( \text{\( } \)} \)} \)} \) = c. 56

\( \text{molto vibrato} \)

\( \text{vibrato nat.} \)

\( \text{\( \text{\( \text{\( \text{\( } \)} \)} \)} \) \) \( \text{trägt,} \)

Piously, inhibiting, telling a fable of bliss.

\( \) \( \text{\( \text{\( \text{\( \text{\( } \)} \)} \)} \) \( \text{trägt,} \)
pedal held down until the sound disappears

short random pedalization throughout this section.
101

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

106 poco a poco rit.

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

jet whistle

air tone
Art. Playing the elite. The daintiness.
The gleam, like of a marble goldfish pond.
Un poco meno mosso
Drugs. Plucking the neon strings, walking the fuzzy valleys. Glitchily.

_A. Fl._

_B. Cl._

_Vib._

_Aux. Perc._

_Pno._

_Vln._

_Vla._

_Vc._
Orch. Bells

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

175

rit.

177

Meno mosso

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

177

Meno mosso

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

178

Orchestral Bells

if possible

molto vibrato

p dolce

Taja Astor: Escape (Score in C)

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War. With a ferocious glee. The ears shut. 

\[
\begin{align*}
q &= c. 126
\end{align*}
\]

\( j \approx c. 52 \)
Poco piu mosso short piano solo (not conducted) accel. molto

rit.

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