

Qualities of Light and Shadow

for solo flute

Gavin Osborn

2003

Qualities of Light and Shadow (2003)

Qualities of Light and Shadow is essentially a response to the flute repertoire I was performing at the time – principally works by Takemitsu and Fukushima. Accordingly, some of the sounds are reminiscent of the shakuhachi and Noh flutes; more importantly, the aesthetic and notation attempt to go somewhat towards exploring the idea of *ma* and its connection to performance. *Ma* is a Japanese term used to represent both the living silence that sounds emerge from, return to, and resonate within, and the skill of placing sounds at the right time within this space. The notation allows the performer a great deal of flexibility in terms of the pacing, phrasing, etc., often resulting in greatly variable timings of performances (from 4 to 9 minutes!). Finally, the piece weaves a soundworld comprised principally of extended techniques, within which the traditional flute sonority occasionally surfaces - the exception rather than the rule.

Gavin Osborn is a flutist, composer, sound-artist and teacher resident in Manchester. He holds Graduate and Professional Performance Diplomas from the Royal Northern College of Music, and a PhD in Composition from the University of Manchester. Notable appearances as performer/composer/collaborator (to 2009) include at the Futuresonic Festival, York Late Music Festival, Sonic Arts Network Expo, Sonorities Festival, International Computer Music Conference, Walter Carroll Concert Series, University of Leeds Contemporary Music Festival and the Manchester International Festival. He frequently premieres acoustic and electroacoustic work by many internationally recognised young composers. Gavin is a co-director of Trio Atem (fl/voice/vcl) and Beacons of Sound (fl/vcl/electronics & sonic art).

The composer is happy to take any queries about the work, and enjoys being informed of any performances. Contact him at:

gavosb76 [at] yahoo [dot] co [dot] uk

Key

weakened air pulse,
using text to shape sound
not literally spoken

Musical notation for 'shah!'. It features a treble clef, a long horizontal line representing a sustained note, and a dynamic marking of *sfz* below the line. The text 'shah!' is written below the line.

sound mostly air

Musical notation for 'sound mostly air'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead. The text 'sound mostly air' is written above the line.

key click

Musical notation for 'key click'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'key click' is written above the line.

base key click
(cover mouthpiece)
sounds M7 below

Musical notation for 'base key click'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'base key click (cover mouthpiece) sounds M7 below' is written above the line.

line indicates approximate duration

Musical notation for 'line indicates approximate duration'. It features a treble clef, a long horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead. The text 'line indicates approximate duration' is written above the line.

multiphonic (fingering shown in part)

Musical notation for 'multiphonic'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'multiphonic (fingering shown in part)' is written above the line.

microtone

Musical notation for 'microtone'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'microtone' is written above the line.

harmonic
(fingering shown in part)

Musical notation for 'harmonic'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'harmonic (fingering shown in part)' is written above the line.

natural harmonic
(fingered fundamental
shown as diamond notehead)

Musical notation for 'natural harmonic'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'natural harmonic (fingered fundamental shown as diamond notehead)' is written above the line.

violent 'spat' accents (note is predominantly noise)
diamond notehead shows fingered fundamental

Musical notation for 'violent spat accents'. It features a treble clef, a long horizontal line, and a series of diamond-shaped noteheads with vertical lines through them. The text 'violent spat accents (note is predominantly noise) diamond notehead shows fingered fundamental' is written above the line.

text below is not literally spoken,
but colors and shapes the sound from within the sound

Musical notation for 'text below is not literally spoken'. It features a treble clef, a long horizontal line, and a series of diamond-shaped noteheads with vertical lines through them. The text 'text below is not literally spoken, but colors and shapes the sound from within the sound' is written above the line.

Extreme accented articulation

Musical notation for 'Extreme accented articulation'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'Extreme accented articulation' is written above the line.

timbra 'trill' (as fingering)

Musical notation for 'timbra trill'. It features a treble clef, a short horizontal line, and a diamond-shaped notehead with a vertical line through it. The text 'timbra trill (as fingering)' is written above the line.

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Flute

sfz *shah!* sfz *tah!* **ppp** non. vib. mfz flz. sfz *hah!* sfz *tah!* **p dolce** **pp**

Fl.

norm. subito **mf** **mp** non. vib. poco vib. **ppp** molto vib! **fff** tr gliss. **ff** **fff**

Fl.

pp flz. sfz *hah!* sfz *tah!* sfz *shah!* sfz *tah!* **ff** non. vib. vib. nat. vib. tone almost forced **ff**

Fl.

+5 non. vib. **p dolce** vib. **f** **ff** **fff** **ff** gliss. **mf**

Fl.

flz. sfz tr mp mf tr mp poco f f **mp dolce espress.** non. vib. gliss. **mf** gliss.

Fl.

f **mf** **ff** **pp dolce** gliss. molto vib!

Fl. *molto vib!*
pp espress. *pp espress.* *ppp*
molto legato

Fl. *molto legato*
sim *nat*
fff
molto vib!

Fl. *c.92*
ff *fff*
gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.*
molto vib!
*fingering as at ***
sim.

Fl. *gliss.*
fff *fff*
violent *violent*

Fl. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*
shaow *shaow* *shaow*
rit..... *rall.....* *sim.*
c.76 *non. vib.* *rall.* *c.60*
mp dolce espress. *dolce* *mf* *mf*

Fl. *pp dolcissimo*
sim.
mpz