

Niki Zohdi

Intolerance

2025

for contrabass clarinet in B-flat

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Duration: c. 8'

The structure and application of material in *Intolerance* is inspired by the 1916 film of the same title directed by D.W. Griffith. In this three-an-a-half epic film, four parallel storylines are intertwined together, each of which separated by several centuries and linked together by shots of a figure representing Eternal Motherhood, rocking a candle.

I have always been drawn to early Renaissance laments, especially those which composers wrote in memory of other composers and use the plainchant *Requiem Aeternam* as a *cantus firmus*. These pieces, especially in the 15th and 16th centuries, use polyphony which really symbolises a lament and are, to my mind, the most heart-wrenching laments ever written. In *Intolerance*, I use the idea of the structure from the film to combine three laments written in memory of other composers (Ockeghem's *Mort, tu as navré* in memoriam Binchois; Obrecht's *Mille quingentis* in memoriam his father; and, van Vaet's *Continuo Lacrimas* in memoriam Clemens non Papa, with the plainchant *Requiem* separating each iteration of material relating to either a combination of the three pieces, a combination of two of the pieces, or just a singular piece. This means that multiple sources are combined in multiple different ways throughout and are linked together by small iterations of the plainchant *Requiem*. The quotations vary in different levels of textual obscuration and are hidden within the texture throughout. They are, however, always present - a little like the polyphony of the 15th and 16th century in my practice as a musician.

Performance notes

Instrument

 - 1/2 breath tone; 1/2 normal tone

 - full breath tone

 - key click

 - slap tongue

E.Tr  - embouchure trill

 - gradual change between tone qualities

M - multiphonic

Score is **TRANSPosed**

Accidentals only apply to the note they are next to unless that note is immediately repeated

All other directions are noted on the score

Vocalisation

 - gradual increase from normal tone to growl/shout

 - gradual decrease from growl/shout to normal tone

 - prolonged growl/shout

 - constant changes between vocal tones

 - rhythmic shout into instrument

The bigger the block = shout/growl

The smaller the block = normal vocal tone

If pitch is not notated, the vocalisation can be on any pitch. If the pitch is notated, always follow the pitches in relation to the vocal tone.

The dynamics are relative to the contrabass clarinet unless otherwise stated.

For Carlos Cordeiro

Intolerance

Niki Zohdi

$\text{♩} = 208$ ($\text{♩} = 52$)

6"

Contrabass Clarinet in B $\flat$

sempre

f p f sempre

mf fff mf p f

5:4

7/16 5/16 2/4 4/4

Voice

5

Cb. Cl.

p fff p fff mf p mf fff p fff

8:5 5:4 12:11 3 12:11 3

4/4 5/8 11/16 4/4

Voice

$\text{♩} = 75$

9 E.Tr. 

Cb. Cl. p f p ff fff mf fff mf fff p

spec. gliss

6:4 11:8 3

Voice p f fff mf fff p

4/4 5/8 3/4 4/4 2/4 3/4 2/4 7/16

rit.

 $\text{♩} = 68 (\text{♩} = 272)$

16 8:7 7:4 7:6 5:4 5:4 8:5

Cb. Cl. sfz f sfz f fff fff fff ppp mf

Voice sfz f sfz f fff fff fff ppp mf

7/16 5/8 5/16 3/8 5/16 3/8 5/16 2/4 4/4

22 8:5 5:3 6:4 6:4 7:6

Cb. Cl. mf p fff mf p fff 3 tr $5:3$ 3 tr

Voice mf p fff mf p fff 3 tr $5:3$ 3 tr

$\text{♩} = 120 (\text{♩} = 60)$

4/4 2/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4

Cb. Cl. *(tr)* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

Voice *sf* *p* *ppp* *mf*

Cb. Cl. *ppp* *sf > ppp* *mp* *sf > p < fff* *tr*

Voice *ppp*

6" *♩ = 52* *5:4*

Cb. Cl. *(tr)* *p* *fff* *p* *fff* *mf*

Voice *ppp*

♩ = 68 *7:4* *9:8* *11:7*

vocalisations as quiet as possible within context of cb. cl. dynamics

39

Cb. Cl.

fff

mf

fff

mf

p

11:6

5:3

5:3

3

Voice

2/4

7/16

2/4

44

Cb. Cl.

ppp

fff

11:8

5:4

6:4

7:4

7:4

7:4

7:6

3

Voice

2

$\text{♩} = 85$

50

Cb. Cl.

7:6

11:6

3

13:12

Voice

3

3/4

13" $\text{♩} = 85$

teeth and pressure alterations in high register following contour

Cb. Cl. 55 *fff* *mp* *f* *fff* *mp* *fff*

Voice

11" $\text{♩} = 52$

Cb. Cl. 61 *mp* *p* *ppp* *p* *mp* *p* *ppp*

Voice

gentle, unstable harmonic movements

67 *mp* *sf* *p* *mf*

Cb. Cl. 67 *mp* *sf* *p* *mf*

Voice

♩ = 85

73

Cb. Cl.

ppp

mf

ppp

sf

ppp

fff

Voice

f

78

Cb. Cl.

p

ppp

sf

p

Voice

84

Cb. Cl.

mf

p

f

mp

ff

mf

fff

Voice

89 14" $\text{♩} = 52$

Cb. Cl. $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{16}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Voice $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{16}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

sf *fff* *gliss.* *mp* *fff*

95 $\text{♩} = 60$ ($\text{♩} = 240$)

Cb. Cl. $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{5}{16}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{7}{16}$

Voice $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{5}{16}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{7}{16}$

ppp *fff* *f* *p* *fff* *ppp* *5:3*

102

Cb. Cl. $\frac{7}{16}$ $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{15}{16}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{7}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Voice $\frac{7}{16}$ $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{15}{16}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{7}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

mp *ppp* *15:12* *9:8* *mp* *7:4*

105

Cb. Cl.

7:4

f

11:8

f > *mp*

5:3

f

mp

9

16

3

p

7:5

fff

5:4

5

16

8

Voice

7:4

2/4

2/4

3/8

9/16

5/16

5/8

110

Cb. Cl.

5:4

sf

fff

5:3

ppp

tr

fff

mp

ppp

5:4

5/8

4/4

5/8

2/4

3/4

5/4

Voice

5:4

5/8

4/4

5/8

2/4

3/4

5/4

115

Cb. Cl.

3

fff

fff

5:4

5/4

7/8

3/4

3/4

Voice

5/4

7/8

3/4

3/4

118 $\text{♩} = 45$ $\text{♩} = 68$

Cb. Cl. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *sempre* *fff* *p* *mf* *5:4*

Voice

122 *mp* *f* *3* *mf* *7:5* *ff* *f* *8:5* *fff* *5:3*

Cb. Cl. *7:5* *3* *7:5*

Voice

125 *f* *7:5* *3* *7:5*

Cb. Cl.

Voice

random high-register pitches as fast as possible for as long as possible

teeth and pressure alterations in high register following contour

129

Cb. Cl.

Voice

fff

musical score for Cb. Cl. and Voice, measures 129-132. The Cb. Cl. part features a series of rapid, high-register notes in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time signatures, marked with a forte (fff) dynamic. The Voice part is mostly silent, with a few notes in 2/4 and 3/4 time. A large black block covers the lower part of the Voice staff in measure 132.

sim.; until you run out of breath

spec. gliss

133

Cb. Cl.

Voice

mf

fff

fff

musical score for Cb. Cl. and Voice, measures 133-136. The Cb. Cl. part features a series of rapid, high-register notes in 5/8, 7/8, and 4/4 time signatures, marked with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The Voice part is mostly silent, with a few notes in 5/8 and 7/8 time. A large black block covers the lower part of the Voice staff in measure 136. A 'spec. gliss' annotation points to a specific note in measure 134. A 'sim.; until you run out of breath' annotation points to a series of notes in measure 135.