

Jon F. Howe

Caoineadh

for Horn and Live Electronics

Duration: 9 minutes

PERUSAL SCORE

Program Notes

Caoineadh is inspired by the Irish sean nos keening style of singing. It's a mournful style that is traditionally used in funerals as a form of vocal lament. The keener begins performing and slowly brings the rest of the attendants into the fold, where it becomes a wash of sound from all those around. Some even believe that this style of singing inspired the Banshees of myth. There has been a lot to mourn in 2025, both in the world at large and in my own personal life. This piece has served as a way for me to process some of those feelings.

Performance Notes

1. For rehearsals 1-4, the patch does not need to be cued directly on the downbeat. Once the performer has a solid tone that they enjoy, the patch can be cued to capture the sound to create a pad.
2. Whenever possible/comfortable for the performer, the first movement should be performed on the F natural harmonic series.
3. Players are encouraged to trigger the spectral freeze function whenever they find a tone that they enjoy. At minimum, it should be done during any stopped moments.
4. Any half valve performed on the relative F should use the thumb rotor valve, being approximately between the F and Bb lengths of horn.
5. Hand stops can be performed on either the Bb or F sides of the horn.
6. Starting from rehearsal 11 onwards, players are encouraged to add slight ornamentation as they see fit while performing.

Technology Requirements

In order to perform this piece you will need the following:

1. A computer capable of running Max/MSP with the accompanying patch.
2. A microphone with some form of audio interface to connect to your computer and speakers.
3. A pair of stereo speakers.
4. A device able to be programmed to the Spacebar (Key Value 32) to trigger the cues and the Return/Enter Key (Key Value 13) such as a Bluetooth Page Turner or iKKEGOL programmable foot switch.

Caoineadh

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1. Salutation (Introduction)

Freely 1

Horn in F

fp *pp* *mf*

Horn Pedal Pad

Live Electronics

2

4 F natural harmonics until Rehearsal 5

pp *mf* *p*

Horn Pedal Pad (+8va)

Horn Pedal Pad

3

4

5

11

pp *mf* *p*

mf *p*

Horn Pedal Pad

Multi voice delay

18

p *f*

Air Sound, no pitch

Wait for delay to end

21 **6**

Air Sound, no pitch

pp *mf* *p*

Shimmervorb

23

Air Sound, no pitch

pp *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

26 **7**

Shimmervorb ends

27 **8**

Multi voiced delay

29 **9**

Wait for delay to end

pp *mf* *p* *pp*

37

mf *p*

rit.

attacca

2. Dirge (Verse)

10 ♩ = ca. 66

Horn in F

mf

Live Electronics

11

4

p

3

7

12

○ Air Sound, half valve

13

11 Half valve, gliss freely on pitch

mp

Multi voice delay

Wait for delay to end

14

15

17

16

Multi voice delay

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Multi voice delay". It consists of two staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a sequence of notes and rests, with a measure number "17" at the beginning. A large, bold, diagonal watermark "COPY" is overlaid on the right side of the staff. The bottom staff is a multi-voice delay line, also in treble clef, with a key signature of one flat. It starts with a measure number "16" in a box. The first measure of the bottom staff is connected to the end of the top staff by a dashed vertical line. The bottom staff contains a sequence of notes and rests, followed by several measures of a repeating rhythmic pattern represented by diagonal lines. The text "Multi voice delay" is written above the bottom staff.

20

○ Air Sound, half valve

Half valve, gliss freely on pitch

mp

mf

3

UNSALE

[illegible]

25 

3. The Gol (Cry)

Horn in F

create spectral freeze

mp

bend down with hand

3

gliss

18

bend down with hand

bend down with hand

Half wave on 3, gliss freely on pitch

mp

Combined shimmer and freeze reverb

19

Multi voice delay

7

8

mp

bend down with hand

3

gliss

bend down with hand

bend down with hand

gliss

11

3

13

14

Mr Sound, half valve Half valve, gliss freely on pitch

mp

18

p

21

23

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

20

Let electronics fade