Preludes of the Night

for guitar

by Benjamin de Murashkin

Perusal Score

Preludes of the Night

Benjamin de Murashkin

Composed 2017

Dedication Mikkel Egelund Nielsen

Duration 10 minutes

Movements

I Wandering In
II Nocturne
III Movements in the Dark
IV Looking Up
V Dancing Visions

Program

Five short movements, each exploring a nocturnal mood, make up my Preludes of the Night for guitar. Opened by a scene-setting wandering through the low notes of the instrument, the first movement soon wakes up to a shimmering sound that persists towards a dynamic climax and capitulation. The second movement explores the use of the traditional nocturne's ever-embellished melody over accompaniment, though with an accompaniment that slowly accelerates to eventually join the theme in coming to rest on the final chords.

The third movement is a swift movement contrasting between a rhythmic percussiveness and a flowing melodicism. It is in the play between these two elements that the music finds its tension, with the percussive sound eventually winning the day (or night!)...or does it? The fourth movement is a painting of the night sky, or are those church bells ringing through the darkness? Gentle strumming passages and a simple thematic motif mingle with many gentle harmonics to create a multi-layered picture of what it is to look up at night.

For the fifth movement, the night comes to an end. The music struggles in its search for calm...through swirling visions, dances and blazing activity we arrive at the final surrender to sleep as deep chords under a blanket of slowing high swirls quieten.

Perusal Score

Composed with the support of the

DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION

DANISH COMPOSERS' SOCIETY

for Mikkel Egelund Nielsen

Preludes of the Night

for guitar

I

Wandering In

Benjamin de Murashkin

Mysteriously ♩ = 120

Guitar

Perusal Score

Copyright © 2017 Benjamin de Murashkin

59

f

mp subito *fff*

66

(only top note trem.)

(top 4 notes trem.)

mf *f*

72

(top 3 notes trem.)

mf *f* *mf* *ff* *f* *fff*

78

3 *pp*

f

pp

84

mp *pp* 3 *p* *pp*

II

Nocturne

At an easy pace, with rubato ♩ = 66

ppp *p* *poco*

5

mf **rit.** **A tempo** *p* 3 5

poco *ppp*

8

f 3 5 5

rit. **A tempo** *p*

p

11

pp *pp* *ppp* *p*

13

mf 3 5 3

Perusal Score

15

rit. A tempo

18

20

22

rit. A tempo rit.

III

Movements in the Dark

Moderately fast ♩ = 90

strings touched, creating some pitch

4

gradually becoming fully pressed

flowing

7

9

11

Perusal Score

gradually becoming fully pressed

13 **pp** **p**

ff —(**pp**)

16 *poco*

mf

18 *poco*

20 **mf** *subito* **f** (**p**)

p

23

poco a poco crescendo

25 **mf**

ff

28 **pp**

mp

IV

Looking Up

Contemplative ♩ = 44

p

pp *sempre (harmonics)*

6 **pp**

mp **mf** **p**

10

ppp —*poco* —*poco* —*poco*

Perusal Score

13

p *ppp* *pp*

16

f

19

pp

V

Dancing Visions

Flowing with some rubato ♩ = 104

accented notes a dynamic higher than surrounding flow throughout

p

poco a poco crescendo

4

rit.

A tempo

7

f *mf*

9

p

11

12

mf

13

f

14

p

poco rit.

16

A tempo

f *p*

Perusal Score

18

poco a poco crescendo

20

f ***mf***

22

p *subito*

24

mf

26

27

wild

f

28

ff

30

mf ***(mf)***

p *sempre*

poco a poco diminuendo

(p)

33

mp

36

p ***(p)***

39

pp ***(p)***

Perusal Score