

Judith Shatin

Cherry Blossom and a Wrapped Thing: After Hokusai

Amplified Clarinet and Electronics



Program Note

Cherry Blossom and a Wrapped Thing: After Hokusai was inspired by a print of that same name made by the extraordinary Japanese printmaker known as Hokusai (1760-1849). I encountered it in a sumptuous collection at the Otani Museum in Tokyo and was immediately struck by the subtle mystery of both its subject matter and execution. The cherr blossom speaks of the beauty and brevity of life; the wrapped thing of its ineffability. It was serendipitous that clarinetist F. Gerard Errante, to whom the piece is dedicated, had just commissioned a new work for his CD Delicate Balance, released on the Aucourant label.

Inspired by the print, I composed Cherry Blossom and a Wrapped Thing; after Hokusai, scored for amplified clarinet and eight-channel audio, with stereo playback available as well. The electronics grew from minute cuttings of Sea of Reeds, an earlier piece commissioned by Errante for amplified clarinet with pvc extensions and effects processor. Those sounds were radically transformed and expanded and took root in new ways. They wrap around the performer and audience, sometimes drifting to earth, sometimes floating above, while the delicate sounds of the clarinet filter through. The sound processing and multi-channel spatialization were designed using RTcmix at the Virginia Center for Computer Music. For more information, visit www.judithshatin.com.—JS

Performance Notes

Timings are indicated in seconds, and the performer should base the temporal flow on the electronic cues. Notation of these cues indicates salient events. Square noteheads indicate approximate pitch. The lineup of the clarinet and electronics has some give to it, so there will be slight variations each time it is played, just as there are variations in the color and shape of cherry blossoms.

N = play with the normal fingering of the upper note, playing the subtone as well.

Sk₃ = side key 3, numbering from the bottom up.

TT = timbral trill

World Premiere
F. Gerard Errante

Cherry Blossom and a Wrapped Thing

After Hokusai

by Judith Shatin

Loosen embouchure; gradually wrap RH
around clarinet, covering all holes.

Clarinet in B \flat

0:08 mp ppp mp :21

Electronic Cues

Wiry Wrapping Sounds

B \flat Cl.

0:30 pp p 0:51 1:00 pp Tr. E key

B \flat Cl.

1:13 1:22 p 1:31

B \flat Cl.

1:36 mf Drifting 1:46 p pp mp p $n.v.$ $ord.$

B \flat Cl. 1:57 2:07
 (tr Ab key) *mp* *p*

B \flat Cl. 2:18 2:37
 Medium Speed RH+2 LH *mf* *pp* *p*

B \flat Cl. 2:50 2:57
 E key Alternate L&R *p* TT

B \flat Cl. Dark 3:20 Wiry Wrapping Sounds
mf *p* *mp*

B \flat Cl. 3:32 3:48
mf *mp* *p* *mp*

B \flat Cl. 4:00 *mf*

B \flat Cl. 4:20 *p* *Light* *pp* *mp* *mf* Add G# key for timbral shifts

B \flat Cl. 4:35 *p* *mf* 4:50 *p* *mp* Slow Trill

B \flat Cl. 5:00 *p* TT *tr*

B \flat Cl. **5:19** **5:27** Graceful *mp* *p*

B \flat Cl. **5:39** **5:40** **5:53** Add F key for timbral shifts *p* *mp*

B \flat Cl. **6:03** **6:09** Drifting

B \flat Cl. **6:18** Langorous **6:24** *p* *mp* Wiry Wrapping Sounds *al fine*

Loosen embouchure
Gradually wrap
hand around the keys

6:34

B \flat Cl.

ord. 6:54

p $\text{p} \text{---} \text{pp}$ *p*

7:04

B \flat Cl.

7:17

Wrapping sounds

7:27

B \flat Cl.

7:52

pp niente