

JUDITH SHATIN

Gregor's Dream

Amplified Piano Trio & Electronics



Program Note

Gregor's Dream was inspired by the anxious dream that Gregor Samsa (the protagonist in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*) has before waking up as a horrible bug (*ungeheures Ungeziefer*). I interpreted this as a type of beetle, of which there are more than 400,000 species! The mood of the anxious dream, and the ominous world into which Gregor wakes, suffused my musical imaginings. The fear of the 'other' permeates the story, despite all belonging to the same family – a situation especially relevant to our tribalistic times. I am grateful to bioacoustician Martin Brandstetter (Austrian Institute for Forest Protection) for sharing his recordings of Asian Longhorn beetles, and to Jayne Yack and Amanda Lindeman (Carleton University, CA) for sharing their recordings of mountain pine beetles as source material for the electronics. *Gregor's Dream* was commissioned by the Jerusalem-based Atar Piano Trio for their *Dream Within a Dream* program and is dedicated to them.

Performance Notes

The trio should be lightly amplified and its sound mixed with that of the electronics. Note that with a few exceptions the exact electronics are not specified. The timing is in seconds.

Accidentals apply in register throughout the bar.

Strings

All pizzicato notes should be allowed to ring.

Crunch – extra pressure on a low note will create a crunching, beetle-like sound

Trills should be 1/2 step above, unless otherwise noted.

Feathered beams do not suggest the exact number of notes, just the duration of the entire group.

Piano

Mallet stick (such as medium yarn mallet) or other rattan drumstick

+ = mute string close to the peg unless otherwise noted

S = silently depress note

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Duration: 9:50

Commissioned by the Atar Piano Trio

Gregor's Dream

Judith Shatin

Mysterious

0:00

0:10

0:15

0:21

0:25

Cue 1

Quasi-snap
pizz., l.v.

Quasi-snap
pizz., l.v.

Close to peg

loco

Cue 1

0:30

0:35

0:40

arco

arco

Occasional beetle sounds

0:45

0:50

0:55

1:00

1:05 **1:10**

Vln. *sp.* *f* *sp.* *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Elec.

Furious short bursts
Match piano and each other

Fast gliss with stick of yarn mallet
on second brace of piano strings.
Repeat irregularly, cueing vln and vcl

Gliss from the quarter tone, expanding range gradually; increasingly wild,
then contract back, while continuing to play the open string.

Gliss with mallet stick both vertically
and horizontally moving up and down
each string as well as across strings

Pedal only with gliss, do not hold.

Cue 2 Misty

1:20 **0:00** **0:04** **0:08**

Vln. *ord.* *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vc. *ord.* *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

Pno. *f* *f* *f* *f*

Elec.

One long, fast gliss
with mallet stick

Cue 2 **Beatie sounds strengthen**

0:12 **0:16** **0:20** **0:24** **0:28**

Vln. *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vc. *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

Elec.

0:32 0:35 0:40 dropped, *col legno* 0:45 ord.

Vln. *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *p*

Vc. *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *p*

Pno. *f* 2 : *f*

Elec. Beatle Sounds Continue and Intensify

0:50 0:55

Vln. *mf* *f* *p*

Vc. *mf* *f* *p*

Pno. *f*

Elec. High wails

Continuous gliss up and down string with right index finger, while repeating the low 'g' with the left hand. You will hear harmonics.

1:00 1:05

Vln. *f* *f*

Vc. *f* *f*

Pno. *f* *mp*

Elec.

Col legno ricochet on harmonic nodes

Repeat a piacere, responding to electronics

Irregular group spacing, start with great agitation

Ricochet while moving bow up and down fingerboard

Trill small vertical fingernail scrapes up and back on wire, start near peg end. (ca. 1" distance back and forth)

Pressing
0:15

41

arco

ff

0:20

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

Dark Dance
0:25

43

0:30

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

0:35

45

0:40

pizz.

pizz.

S

Elec. Silence Beetles return

[illegible]

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is arranged for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello) and piano. The score is divided into two systems, each with a time signature of 1:10 and 1:15. The Violin I part features a melodic line with triplets and sixteenth notes. The Violin II part provides harmonic support with sixteenth notes and triplets. The Viola part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Cello part features a melodic line with triplets and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. The electric guitar part is a simple, steady eighth-note accompaniment.

1:20 *sp.* ord. *sp.* ord. *sp.* ord. *sp.* ord.

54

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

Suddenly loud, then fluctuating increase of beetle sounds.

1:25

ff

1:30

56

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

1:35 Urgent

f

1:40

58

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

1:45

2:00 2:05 2:10

Vln. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf*

Elec.

End Cue 3

Cue 4

0:00

Increasingly Savage

Vln. 65

Vc.

Pno.

Respond to the electronics. Start sparsely, compressed register, single notes; Increasingly agitated and dense, loud; register spread increase, pitch order a piacere. Draw on techniques including pizz, sul pont, overpressure, noise, scrapes, scratches.

Respond to the electronics. Start sparsely, single notes. Increasingly agitated and dense, loud, wild; register and pitch order a piacere; Draw on keyboard notes, muted notes, string gliss, fingernail or other pizz., pedal types.

Cue 4

Elec.

Spreading beetles continues throughout cue

0:20 0:40 0:00 Shimmering

Vln. 66

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

Continue to respond to electronics. Gradually sparser, quieter, spread out register.

A niente

mp

p

mp

p

Cue 5

Beetles + Beetles sing

0:05 0:10 0:15 0:20

Vln. 69

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

sp.

pizz. arco

mf

f

pizz.

f

arco

f

f

Intermittent beetles & silence to 30"

0:25 0:30 0:35

Vln. 73

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

mp

mp

f

S

Beetles+Pitch

0:40 0:45 0:50 0:55 Harsh

Vln. 76 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *tr*

Vc. *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *tr*

Pno. *mf* *f* *S*

Elec. Beetle sounds continue almost to end of cue

1:00 1:05 1:10

Vln. 80 *mp* *sp.* *ord.* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *sp.* *ord.* *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Elec. Continuing low rumble to 1:32

1:15 1:25 1:30

Vln. 83 *mp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *f*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f*

Elec.

1:30

Angry

1:35

Crunch (over-pressure)

1:40

Crunch (over-pressure)

1:45

86

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

Irregular rhythm,
Respond to electronics

1:50

ord.

1:55

2:00

0:00

0:05

90

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

mf

mp

p

f

mf

mp

pizz.

arco

mf

f

mp

Beetle sounds end

0:10

0:15

0:20

95

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

**On string, vertigal gliss
on each note (rh).**

Cue 7

Cue 7

Beetle sounds, intermittent to end

0:40 0:45 0:50

Vln. 113 *f* *col legno*

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mf* *f* *col legno*

Pno. *f* *f*

Elec.

Fast gliss on tuning pegs with mallet stick (upper brace)

Fast gliss on tuning pegs with mallet stick (upper brace)

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The musical score is divided into two measures. The first measure is marked with a time signature of 0:55 and the second with 1:00. The Vln. and Vc. parts feature an irregular rhythm of repeated notes, with annotations: "Irregular rhythm Repeat a piacere, gradually vanish just before last beetle sound." and "Repeat a piacere, gradually vanish just before last beetle sound." respectively. The Pno. part features a series of ascending and descending lines, with an annotation: "Repeat a piacere, gradually vanish just before last beetle sound." The Elec. part features a series of notes, with an annotation: "Beetle Sounds".