

The Fabricator of Joy

quintet for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and piano

Op. 17

commissioned by Ensemble Fioritura

Lance Mok

London: January 2023

ca. 8 mins

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For various reasons from publicity needs to political pressure, there seems to be a compulsive obsession in our world today for the display of joy and positivity regardless of realistic circumstances. *The Fabricator of Joy* is a portrait of such a social structure that systematically tames its subjects into numbness, into truly believing that the images of joy they repetitively produce is joy itself. The subjects are conditioned by the mighty system to deny all suggestions of a flawed reality and carry out their mechanical duty to rejoice.

The quintet is written in two movements. The first is essentially a motet for the four wind instruments based entirely on the grievous theme stated by the solitary bassoon. An episode of relatively tonal sequences gives the piece its only instance of fleeting warmth before plunging back into rigorous polyphony and almost being coerced by the piano into settling into a cadence. The second movement is the *pièce de résistance* of the work. The theme of apparent joy is set against sounds imitative of machineries after its unison statement opening the movement. As it develops, it becomes clear that such joy is diluted by forces almost malign: the towering manufacturer of supposed happiness is clouded by growing ominosity and its products, laughter, are forced and acerbic. Towards the end, the subjects desperately pull out all stops to convince themselves their life is 'Joy. Joy. Joy.'

The work was commissioned by Ensemble Fioritura, who gave the premiere in Lee Hysan Concert Hall at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong on 21st June 2023.

Instrumentation: flute, oboe, B^b clarinet, bassoon, and piano

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I.

Grave, molto doloroso $\text{♩} = 66$

Musical score for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B \flat (transposed), Bassoon, and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of five measures. The first three measures are in 4/4 time, and the last two are in 5/4 time. The Bassoon part features a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *f*, *mp*, and *f*, and the instruction *ad libitum*. The Piano part is mostly silent, with rests in all staves.

Musical score for Bassoon (Bsn.). The score starts with a double bar line and a fermata. It then continues with a melodic line in 5/4 time, followed by 4/4, 2/4, and 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*. The piece concludes with a fermata.

Musical score for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), and Clarinet in B \flat (Bb Cl.). The score begins with a first ending bracket labeled '1'. The Flute part starts with a *p* dynamic and includes a *mp* dynamic. The Oboe part starts with a *p* dynamic and includes *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *f* dynamics. The Clarinet in B \flat part starts with a *p* dynamic and includes a *mp* dynamic. The score concludes with a fermata.

II. Joy. Joy. Joy.

Presto ♩ = 208

Musical score for measures 1-5 of 'Joy. Joy. Joy.' in 7/8 time. The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B♭ (transposed), Bassoon, and Piano. All parts are marked *ff* (fortissimo). The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 7/8. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals.



6

Musical score for measures 6-10. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinet in B♭ (B♭ Cl.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute, Oboe, and Bassoon parts are mostly rests. The Clarinet in B♭ part begins in measure 6 with a *f* dynamic. The Piano part has a *p* dynamic with the instruction *ma molto marcato*. A dynamic marking *mf* with a hairpin indicates a crescendo from measure 7 to measure 8, followed by a *p* dynamic in measure 9. The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 7/8.

13

59

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Pno.

*mf*³

f

8va

Ped.



63

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

f

*mf*³

f

mf

*mf*³

8va

Ped.

108

Fl. *cresc.* *f*

Ob. *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Cl. *cresc.* *ff*

Bsn. *cresc.* *f*

Pno. *cresc.* *f*



112

Fl. *f* *ff*

Ob. *cresc.*

B♭ Cl. *cresc.*

Bsn. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*

157 24

Ob. *pp*

B♭ Cl. *p* *mp* *p*

Bsn. *p*

Pno. *p* Ped. Ped.

==

160

Ob.

Bsn.

Pno. Ped.

213

Fl.

Ob.

Pno.

mf

pp *sempre*

mp

*

218

Fl.

Ob.

Pno.

mp

p

mp

31

223

Fl.

Bb Cl.

Pno.

p

mf

p

270

Fl. *f* *ff*

Ob. *cresc.*

B♭ Cl. *cresc.*

Bsn. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*



273

Fl. *f* *ff* **37**

Ob. *fff*

B♭ Cl. *fff*

Bsn. *fff*

Pno. *fff*

Ped. *