Shapeshifter

Perusal score Not for performance

AJ Harbison

Muse Room Press

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Shapeshifter (2023)

for solo cello

AJ Harbison

Program Notes

A shapeshifter is a creature (human or otherwise) that can change its appearance at will.

A theme and variations is a musical piece in which a melody goes through a successive series of transformations.

My piece *Shapeshifter* is a theme and variations of sorts; there is a primary melody that goes through transformations. But within the variations and the theme itself there are quick changes of appearance — octave jumps, sudden dynamic changes, sudden changes from one playing technique to another. The four variations following the theme are marked "underwater," "nervously," "alluringly," and "punk rock."

Shapeshifter draws inspiration from sources as varied as Koji Kondo's score for the 1990 Super Nintendo game "Super Mario World," my own composition *TheSpaceBetween*, Sergei Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto, and the maximalist pop-jazz fusion band The Dirty Loops.

Shapeshifter was composed for Sascha Groschang, who premiered the piece on April 29 and 30, 2023 at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Kansas City, MO.

Performance Notes

The performer should feel free to use open strings whenever practical.

Tenuto marks indicate both a slight emphasis and a slight lengthening of the note.

Unaccented grace notes should be played before the beat, with the normal note receiving more emphasis. Accented grace notes should be played on the beat, with the first grace note receiving more emphasis.

ord. = ordinario s.p. = sul ponticello s.t. = sul tasto m.s.t. = molto sul tasto (over the fingerboard)

> **Duration** ca. 9 minutes 30 seconds

Composed for Sascha Groschang

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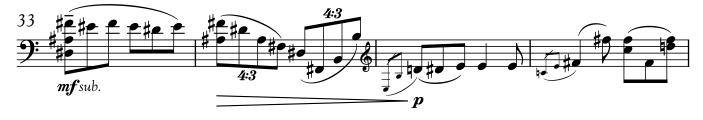
Shapeshifter — AJ Harbison





















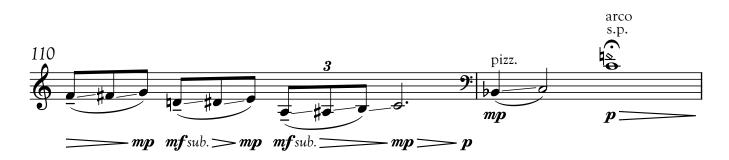
















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