

ANDREW TOOVEY

YOUR MOUTH

FOR VIOLA AND PERCUSSION

DURATION 12 MINUTES

Your Mouth for viola and percussion was commissioned by the Young Concert Artists Trust especially for Jane Atkins and Richard Benjafield. The piece is in five short and contrasting movements - 1, 3 and 5 are fast and loud, 2 and 4 are slow, soft and more melancholy. The ideas and material used in each movement are obsessively limited and extreme. In all the movements the percussion instruments are used to either emphasise the viola line, or echo it, suggesting harmonies. The percussion instruments used are vibraphone (bowed in movement 4) gato drum (a small box with 'tuned' slats of wood), whistle, pedal bass drum, and a Tibetan ceremonial 'singing' bowl, which is used for meditative rituals in Buddhist ceremonies.

I choose the structure of separate movements (rather than my usual single span movement structure), because I wanted the idea of strong individual identity (rather like setting a sequence of different poems). The title 'Your Mouth' stems from this idea as though each movement were a setting of wordless poetry, the mouth unable to articulate in sound, but only make shapes, perhaps showing a glimpse of emotional intensity.

FIRST PERFORMANCE

JANE ATKINS AND RICHARD BENJAFIELD PURCELL ROOM 13 DECEMBER 1993

PERCUSSION : Vibraphone (with bow), Gato Drum, Tibetan ceremonial 'tuned' bowl, pedal bass drum and Whistle.

2.

Musical notation for measures 1-19. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a complex melodic line with many slurs and ties. The lower staff contains a bass line with chords and some melodic movement.

20

Musical notation for measures 20-24. Measure 20 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a *Sim.* (Sostenuto) marking. The notation continues with complex melodic and harmonic structures.

25

Pont.

Musical notation for measures 25-29. Measure 25 is marked with a *Pont.* (Ponte) marking. The system shows a transition in the music, with some rests in the upper staff.

Musical notation for measures 30-29. This system shows a complex melodic line in the upper staff and a bass line with chords. The notation is dense with many notes and slurs.

30

Musical notation for measures 30-39. Measure 30 is marked with a *30*. The system continues with complex melodic and harmonic structures, featuring many slurs and ties.

Musical score system 1, measures 1-34. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a complex melodic line with many slurs and ornaments. Above the first few measures, there are markings 'nnn nn'. The lower staff contains a bass line with chords and some melodic fragments.

Musical score system 2, measures 35-39. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line with slurs and ornaments. The lower staff continues the bass line. A marking '(Non trem.)' is written below the first few measures. A 'Nat.' marking is above the final measure.

Musical score system 3, measures 40-44. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line. The lower staff consists of a series of chords. A marking '40' is above the first measure.

Musical score system 4, measures 45-49. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line with slurs and ornaments. The lower staff continues the bass line with chords and slurs. A marking 'Pont.' is above the first measure.

Pedal each slur.

45

Musical score system 5, measures 50-54. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line with slurs and ornaments. The lower staff continues the bass line with chords and slurs.

4.

2.

Slowly ♩ = c. 66

50

Gato Drum
Vibs.

Hold Pedal throughout.

55

60

65

70

* Gato Drum random constant ♩ soft beater.
 ** Add stick sound against side of Gato Drum ad lib.

75

Musical notation for measures 75-78. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with various note values and rests. Above the staff, there are two bracketed groups of notes: a group of five notes labeled '5' and a group of six notes labeled '6'. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests.

80

Musical notation for measures 80-83. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with various note values and rests. Above the staff, there are two bracketed groups of notes: a group of five notes labeled '5' and a group of five notes labeled '5'. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests.

85

Musical notation for measures 85-88. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with various note values and rests. Above the staff, there are three bracketed groups of notes: a group of five notes labeled '5', a group of five notes labeled '5', and a group of three notes labeled '3'. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests.

90

Musical notation for measures 90-93. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with various note values and rests. Above the staff, there are three bracketed groups of notes: a group of three notes labeled '3', a group of five notes labeled '5', and a group of five notes labeled '5'. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests.

95

Musical notation for measures 95-98. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with various note values and rests. Above the staff, there are two bracketed groups of notes: a group of five notes labeled '5' and a group of five notes labeled '5'. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests.

6.

3.

Completely Frantic!

98

* *fff!* All *Martellato*.

change group every few seconds.
(does not change exactly with viola).

fff!

Sudden Stop.

Rit. to end exactly with viola.

* *Use hard beaters, brittle sound.*

!!!

Very Slow ♩ c. 66

100

pp Hold drone throughout, even during rests. MUTED.

(Bowed Vibrs.)

pp Pedal throughout.

Tuned Bowl (Soft beater) (p)

105

110

115

120

125

130

135

140

to nothing.

Very fast $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 86$ (or as fast as possible!)

Whistle

Gato Drum

Pedal Bass Drum

9 *ff!*

8

145

150

12

8

$\times 3$

9

8

155

$\times 4$

160

12

8

$\times 2$

9

8

* Gato Drum - use at least 4 hard beaters and vary combinations of notes.

165

170

175

180

185

Andrew Toomy
October 1993
London.