

to Mark Seerup

BIRDSCAPES

Daniel Kallman

I. An Unexpected Visitor

[Following an introduction by third party, player immediately begins the movement, with physical movements and reactions (while playing) to indicate that a bird has just entered and is flying about the room.]

Presto assai ♩=138-144

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'Presto assai' with a quarter note equal to 138-144 beats per minute. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff measures 5-7, the third staff measures 8-10, and the fourth staff measures 11-14. The music features rapid sixteenth-note passages with various accidentals (flats and sharps). The piece concludes with a 'molto dim.' (very diminuendo) marking and a 'ppp' (pianissimo) dynamic. An 'accel. possibile al fine' (acceleration possible to the end) marking is placed above the final staff.

mf

accel. possibile al fine

molto dim. *ppp*

[Immediately into narration.]

"Was that a slow bird or a fast bird?" (Short pause for answers, but don't overly acknowledge or interact.)

"Was that a big bird or a small bird?" (Same.)

"You know what? That wasn't a bird at all! That was your imagination, wasn't it? (Helped along by the music, of course.) In fact, that was actually a musical picture of a bird! Just like an artist might draw a picture of a bird that we can see, a composer might choose to draw a picture using sounds that we can hear. Now, can an instrument really sound exactly like a bird? Well, usually not, because they aren't really birds at all, but musical instruments! But for hundreds of years, composers who create music and other artists who might create paintings or sculptures or poems often react to what they see and experience in nature, and this group of several short pieces that I am here to play today is the composer's musical response to what he knows about birds from having either read about them or from having observed them."

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