

Matt Browne

Exit, Pursued by a Bear

for solo cello (2012)



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Program Note

Exit, Pursued by a Bear gets its title from a famous stage direction in the Shakespeare play, *The Winter's Tale*. The moment when this direction occurs is the pivotal point in the play, when it ceases to become a tragedy, and begins its progression to the happy ending usually reserved for comedies.

I was drawn by the stage direction in two ways. One, because of its rather laconic and succinct format, scattered among the usual flowery, Shakespearean language. However, more importantly, I was drawn in by the frightening image of a savage, extinct bear (*wild* bears were unknown to 17th century English audiences, as they had been extinct on the island since the 11th century) chasing me endlessly through a strange, Bohemian forest. This feral, violent chase is the primary inspiration for the piece.

—Matt Browne
2012

Performance Instructions:

↑ First appearing in mm. 25-28, this symbol indicates to play the specified notes *col legno battuto*.

Duration: c. 3'30"

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Frantic $\text{♩} = 152$

42 *fff* *pp agile*

47

53 *< sffz < sffz*

59 *ff sub.* *pp sub.* *mf*

65

70 *sul. pont.* *ord.* *pizz.* *arco.* *f*

75 *pp*

81 *< sffz < sffz mp* *sffz sffz mf*

88 *cresc. poco a poco*

95 *fp*

101 *ff* *p sub.*

106 *ff*

111 *p sub.*

116 *ff*

121 *fff rough* *at the frog* *do not l.v.* *sim.*

125 *p sub.* *ord.* *fff sub.*

128 *pp sub.* *ord.*

131 *f dance-like*

136 *fff rough* *pizz.* *arco*

141 *p sub.* *fff sub.* *pp sub.* *sfz pp*

145 *fff* *Ferocious* *♩ = 160* *short*

151 *ric.* *f* *arco*

157 *ff*

162 *fff*

169 *mf sub.* *ff sub.* *mf sub.*

173 *f* *p sub.* *f sub.*

177 *f*

181

187

192 *ff*

199 *accel.*

205 *Explosive* $\text{♩} = 172$ *ffff*

209

213 *ffff* (V)