Matt Browne

Exit, Pursued by a Bear

for Viola Solo

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 this 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 beast (*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.

Duration: c. 3.5 minutes

www.mattbrownecomposer.com

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♩ = 144, **Hurried**

at the frog

fff *rough*

5

sul. pont

sub. ***pp***

ord.

sub. ***ff***

8

sul pont. - - - - - - slowly move to ord. - - - - - - - - > ord.

pp

11

f *dance-like*

16

fff *rough*

f *dance-like*

19

sul. pont

pp

ord.

f

22

pizz.

arco.

ric.

Any notes marked with + denote left hand pizz.
Any notes marked with ⇈ denote col legno battuto
Any notes not marked with these symbols are arco ord.

26

ric.

p

fff

29

p

f

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Exit, Pursued by a Bear

33

37

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

highest notes possible sul D and G.
Glisses should be unbroken.

nasty gliss!

♩ = 152, Frantic

ff

fff

43

pp agile

48

sffz *sffz*

54

60

sub. ***ff***

sub. ***pp***

mf

66

sul. pont

72

ord.

pizz.

arco.

f

pp

78

sffz *sffz* ***mp***

84

sffz *sffz* ***mf***

cresc. poco a poco

91

98

fp ff

104

sub. p ff

110

sub. p

116

ff

121

at the frog

fff rough

124

sul. pont

sub. pp

ord.

sub. ff

127

sul pont. - - - - - - slowly move to ord. - - - - - - - - - - - - - > ord.

sub. pp

130

f dance-like

135

fff rough

pizz.

arco

pizz.

p

141 arco fff sub. pp sfz pp

144 sffz

147 short As before fff ♩ = 160, Ferocious ric.

154 arco f ff

159 As before

166 fff sub. mf

170 ff mf f

175 p f

179 f

185

191

ff

accel.

199

205

♩ = 172, Explosive

ffff

209

212

fffff

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Ann Arbor, MI