

Inside Reflection

for unaccompanied Bass Trombone
(with optional solo piano prologue)

(2024)
Don Freund

Inside Reflection may be played simply as an unaccompanied bass trombone solo, or as a “staged” version with a solo piano prologue that provides a context for the heart of the work.

The “staged” version should ideally follow the performance of another work on the program with the pianist and the trombonist left onstage after applause. The trombonist begins doing whatever he/she might do in-between pieces (drinking a glass of water, adjusting the music), giving no notice to the pianist who plays a little tune to themselves, and exits. The trombonist should seem to be unaware of having heard the tune, although elements of that melody may subliminally be influencing the deeply personal soliloquy he/she plays to resonate their shifting emotions.

Piano prologue

Simply, as if playing through to see how it goes.

The musical score for the piano prologue consists of three systems of music. The first system starts with a tempo marking of quarter note = 160. The music is written for piano, with a dynamic marking of *mp* in the right hand and *p* in the left hand. The second system begins at measure 8 and features a triplet in the right hand. The third system begins at measure 14. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

After a brief pause,
exit unceremoniously,
as if you have some place to go...

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Tempo, rhythms and dynamics are only suggestions, to be abandoned once the piece has been internalized. The performer must discover their own sense of sound and direction to experience the most powerful introverted emotions.

♩ = c. 120

Bass Trombone
(unaccompanied)

p, inward, ruminating

4

mp

5

mp

6

mp agitated

7

mf
mf resigned

8

p, still searching

9

mp, singing

10

p, playful, bemused
mp more intent

