philip czapłowski

ocean greyness

solo clarinet

(2003/revised 2022)



Philip Czapłowski is of Polish and British ancestry. He has lived in Melbourne, Australia since 1969 where he studied music at Melbourne and La Trobe Universities, before completing a PhD in composition at Monash University in 2007. In 2005 he also attended the Academy of Music in Kraków, Poland.

Performers of Czapłowski's music include the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, the New York Miniaturist Ensemble, Orquestra Antunes Câmara, Australia Pro Arte (subsequently the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra), the Canberra Wind Soloists, the Chamber Strings of Melbourne, the Geelong Chamber Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Soloists, Australia Felix, and many other Australian and overseas musicians

Czapłowski's music has featured in numerous festivals, including the Encuentros Festival Internacional (Brazil 1995), International Double-Reed Society Conference (Arizona 1998), Federation Music Week (Melbourne 2000), Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music (Belfast 2003), Szymanowski Festival 2003 (XXVI Dni Muzyki Karola Szymanowskiego, Poland), International Double-Reed Society Conference (Melbourne 2004), the Melbourne International Festival of Single Reeds (2005), the Cortona Contemporary Music Festival (Tuscany, Italy 2006), Karhofest (Karho Island, Finland 2017), the 7th European Clarinet Festival (Porto, Portugal 2017), the International Festival of Kraków Composers (Kraków, Poland 2018), the 5th International Clarinet Festival (Lima, Peru 2019), the Elzbieta Chojnacka Festival (Tarnowskie Góry, Poland 2019), the Gorczycki Festiwal (Tarnowskie Góry, Poland 2020), the 5th Seminar of Contemporary Harpsichord Music 'Cembalo no limits' (Łódź, Poland 2022), and the 2nd International Low Flutes Festival (2022).

Czapłowski's music has been broadcast by RAI Italy, Polski Radio Katowice, ABC Classic FM, ABC Radio National, 3MBS FM, Southern FM, and Radio Adelaide.

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for solo clarinet was completed in May 2003, and first performed by Paul Todd, during a Melbourne Composers' League concert at the Retro Café, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia on 1st June 2003.

The title refers to a 1953 painting by Jackson Pollock, currently exhibited at the Guggenheim Museum in New York:

Ocean Greyness, one of Pollock's last great works, depicts several disembodied eyes hidden within the swirling colored fragments that materialize from the dense, scumbled gray ground. "When you are painting out of your unconscious," he claimed, "figures are bound to emerge." Manifest in this painting is a dynamic tension between representation and abstraction that, finally, constitutes the core of Pollock's multileveled oeuvre.

Nancy Spector

Performance notes

Accidentals apply throughout the bar unless cancelled by another accidental, and only in the octave in which they occur.

Trills are to the note a semi-tone above the main note.

Duration: About 5 minutes

The current version of the score was prepared in 2022, and contains minor revisions. Versions of the piece also exist for bass clarinet and contrabass clarinet (commissioned by Harry Sparnaay).

Ocean Greyness













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