



The Acrobat

for Unaccompanied Oboe

Zoe Gougousidis

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The Acrobat was composed in 2022 by Zoe Gougousidis. It was premiered on the 28th of November 2023 in the Verbruggen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music by Harry Wagstaff.

Duration: c. 3 minutes 30 seconds

The Acrobat was written to explore the versatility of the oboe, particularly the instrument's agility. It does this through the exploration of strong and weak registers, extended and expressive techniques (such as multiphonics and bisbigliando) and technical capabilities to achieve contrasts in style and tone colour, as well as demonstrating the agility of the instrument through large leaps and fast passages. The title comes from the way in which the soloist has to leap and change between contrasting elements in the work.

This piece began as a short solo, composed for a workshop at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. It was workshopped on the 7th of September 2022 by Peter Veale, which led to further development of the work and the eventual expansion of the piece later in 2022. It was then premiered in 2023.

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Freely ♩ = 40

pp < p pp < mp pp < mp f

Detailed description: This block contains the first six measures of the piece. It is written in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Freely' with a quarter note equal to 40 beats. The dynamics are indicated as *pp* < *p*, *pp* < *mp*, *pp* < *mp*, and *f*. The music features flowing eighth-note patterns with various articulations and a double bar line at the end of measure 6.

7

ff mp⁴ rit. p < mf pp

Detailed description: This block contains measures 7 through 11. Measure 7 starts with a dynamic of *ff*. Measure 8 has a dynamic of *mp*⁴. Measure 9 is marked 'rit.' (ritardando). Measure 10 has a dynamic of *p* < *mf*. Measure 11 ends with a dynamic of *pp*. There are vertical lines of dots above measures 8 and 11. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a 12/8 time signature.

12 Playful and Light ♩ = 110

mf mf

Detailed description: This block contains measures 12 through 14. The tempo is marked 'Playful and Light' with a quarter note equal to 110 beats. The dynamics are *mf* in measure 12 and *mf* in measure 14. The music consists of eighth-note patterns.

15

f

Detailed description: This block contains measure 15. It features a series of eighth notes with accents (^) above them. The dynamic is *f*. The piece ends with a double bar line.