## Alexey Shmurak

# The Fishes' Reply to St.Anthony 

2022
Written for Latenz Ensemble

Ensemble: 5 performers and conductor.
Winds: Flute, Clarinet in B
Percussionist (l performer): 5 toms (different pitches), Xylophone, Tubular bells Strings: Viola, Cello

Duration $\approx 16 \mathrm{~min}$

Clarinet is in transport in score (in B).

In percussion part
in Toms fragment (bars 1-106)
each line corresponds to different tom:


Tempo should be very steady for all the piece. It is very important to learn and feel the transitions between different time signatures. I use "conductor's" approach to time signature: pauses and rythmes in bars are grouped accoring to conductor's gestures. I use very often additive signatures: in this case I propose conductor to use gestures on each beat.
For instance, in signature $2 / 2+1 / 4+1 / 81$ propose to use 4 gestures: first $1 / 2$, second $1 / 2$, then $1 / 4$ and $1 / 8$.

It is very important to show all contrasts: metric, rythmic, dynamics, emotional etc. This music is not difficult technically (except time signatures), but it is quiet paradoxical in structure and emotions.

From bar 1 to bar 37 (number 1) music is very indifferent and robotic.

From bar 37 (number 1) to bar 90 (number 2) there is new element - agressive phrases in Flute and Clarinet in B parts.

From bar 90 (number 2) to bar 106 music is even more robotic, scary, cruel.

From bar 106 to bar 110 music comes back to be robotic and indifferent without any emotional reaction to scary cruel section.

From bar 110 to bar 123 (number 3) music is even more indifferent and frozen (but without any tempo change!!), with strange "classical" smell (like zombi-Beethoven).

From bar 123 (number 3) to bar 169 (number 4) music tries to be more animate, but as if through the barrier. Sometimes it becomes more "normal", "lively" like in bars 152-154. Performers should feel and show this more nice, pleasent harmonies (comparing with previous).

From bar 169 (number 4) to bar 227 (number 5) music is very emotional, humane, sometimes romantic (like Wagner, Scriabin, Mahler etc.) except reminiscences from previous section in bars 172, 176, 221-223.

From bar 227 (number 5) to bar 261 music is calm, meditative, naively religious.

From bar 261 to the very end music is again emotional, humane, romantic, but more tired and lamentable. It could remind late Mahler (Symphony №10).

It is important, that transfer from early sections (robotic, indifferent, sometimes cruel) to later sections (more emotional, humane, romantic) should be very unforced and easy. Actually, this transfer is in bar 123 (number 3). This change should be natural and effortless.

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## Xylophone




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