

Kafkaesque

A Fantasy Piece for Clarinet Solo

1. Preludio / 2. Homunculus / 3. Pandemonium / 4. Pan's garden

Radovan Stojanović

EMR 51835

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PREFACE

Kafkaesque is a term that evokes an atmosphere of absurdity, anxiety, and helplessness in the face of invisible authorities and incomprehensible logic. It originates from the literary world of Franz Kafka, whose stories and novels explore the tension between the individual and a world that is both familiar and disturbingly alien. This four-movement fantasy reflects similar emotional states, surreal imagery, and symbolic landscapes through the medium of solo clarinet.

I. Prelude (Liberamente)

The first movement serves as an introspective gateway into the cycle. The tempo is free, and the phrasing fragmented and suspended. With no clear rhythmic pulse, the music unfolds like an inner monologue: wavering thoughts, a quiet question of existence. Here, the clarinet becomes an extension of the inner voice – at times a whisper, at times a silent rebellion. Emerging from and returning to silence, the music demands subtle control over tone color, dynamics, and timing.

II. Homunculus

This movement introduces a drastic shift in character – the entrance of a figure that perhaps should not exist. Inspired by the alchemical idea of creating a being in artificial conditions – a homunculus – this music suggests something vaguely human-like, yet fragmented and hollow. Multiphonics, microtonal inflections, alternate fingerings, and breath-based effects are used to convey grotesqueness and instability. Beneath the experimental surface lies an emotional ambiguity: is this creature suffering, or merely mimicking gestures it cannot comprehend?

III. Pandemonium

The third movement represents the core of unrest within the cycle. It is rhythmically relentless and formally fragmented, filled with sharp dynamic contrasts, broken gestures, and percussive articulations. Named after the infernal city in Milton's **Paradise Lost**, this movement is a metaphor for inner chaos and identity disintegration. The performer must balance precision with controlled fury – the music seems to collapse under its own pressure, yet remains focused and expressive.

IV. Pan's Garden

The final movement brings contrast – not through resolution, but through a misty, dreamlike vision. The mythological figure of Pan, god of nature and music, is both playful and sinister. The clarinet here takes on the character of a pastoral flute, with ornamentation reminiscent of the ancient aulos. The melodic lines are simple, yet constantly shifting: subtle instabilities reveal that this is not an idealized paradise, but a place of duality.

Radovan Stojanović

Composed during the summer of 2025.

Radovan Stojanovic



English: Radovan was born on March 13, 1994, in Loznica, Republic of Serbia. At the age of 17, he received a guitar as a gift and soon began taking lessons with a local music teacher. Fascinated by Benny Goodman, he picked up the clarinet for the first time at the age of 20. With no prior musical education, he realized that music and the clarinet were his true calling.

As he was too old for regular enrolment, he completed primary music school part-time before enrolling in high school music studies with a focus on the clarinet. During high school, he performed at numerous concerts and as a member of the school symphony orchestra. In 2017, he became a member of the RTS (Radio Television of Serbia) National Youth Orchestra.

Radovan graduated from secondary (high) music school in 2020 with the highest grade (5, according to the Serbian grading system) in clarinet. During his time as a high school music student, he developed an interest in composing and counterpoint, leading to the creation of his first miniatures, such as Contemplation for piano and Epiphany for voice and piano.

In 2022, he enrolled in undergraduate academic studies of clarinet at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad under the guidance of Professor Aleksandar Tasić. As a student, he performed at various music festivals as both a soloist and a chamber musician, including at the prestigious A-Fest in Novi Sad. He also created arrangements for various chamber ensembles and composed a book of 15 études for clarinet, inspired by an idea from Professor Tasić. The études were created between June and September 2024.

Français: Radovan est né le 13 mars 1994 à Loznica, en République de Serbie. À l'âge de 17 ans, il a reçu une guitare en cadeau et a rapidement commencé des cours avec un professeur de musique local. Fasciné par Benny Goodman, il a joué de la clarinette pour la première fois à l'âge de 20 ans. Sans aucune formation musicale préalable, il a réalisé que la musique et la clarinette étaient sa véritable vocation.

Trop âgé pour une inscription classique, il a suivi l'école primaire de musique en cours du soir avant de s'inscrire à des études secondaires en musique, avec une spécialisation en clarinette. Pendant le lycée, il a participé à de nombreux concerts et joué en tant que membre de l'orchestre symphonique de l'école. En 2017, il est devenu membre de l'Orchestre national des jeunes de la RTS (Radio Télévision de Serbie).

Radovan a obtenu son diplôme d'études secondaires musicales en 2020 avec la note maximale (5, selon le système de notation serbe) en clarinette. Pendant ses études au lycée musical, il s'est intéressé à la composition et au contrepoint, ce qui l'a conduit à créer ses premières miniatures, telles que Contemplation pour piano et Epiphany pour voix et piano.

En 2022, il s'est inscrit à des études universitaires de clarinette à l'Académie des arts de Novi Sad, sous la direction du professeur Aleksandar Tasić. En tant qu'étudiant, il a joué dans divers festivals de musique, à la fois comme soliste et musicien de chambre, notamment lors du prestigieux A-Fest à Novi Sad. Il a également réalisé des arrangements pour divers ensembles de chambre et composé un recueil de 15 études pour clarinette, inspiré par une idée du professeur Tasić. Ces études ont été créées entre juin et septembre 2024.

Deutsch: Radovan wurde am 13. März 1994 in Loznica, Republik Serbien, geboren. Im Alter von 17 Jahren erhielt er eine Gitarre als Geschenk und begann bald darauf, Unterricht bei einem lokalen Musiklehrer zu nehmen. Fasziniert von Benny Goodman griff er mit 20 Jahren zum ersten Mal zur Klarinette. Ohne vorherige musikalische Ausbildung erkannte er, dass Musik und die Klarinette seine wahre Berufung waren.

Da er für eine reguläre Einschreibung zu alt war, schloss er die Grundschule für Musik im Teilzeitunterricht ab, bevor er sich für die weiterführende Schule mit Schwerpunkt Klarinette einschrieb. Während der Schulzeit trat er bei zahlreichen Konzerten auf und spielte als Mitglied des Schul-Symphonieorchesters. 2017 wurde er Mitglied des Nationalen Jugendorchesters der RTS (Radio Television of Serbia).

Radovan schloss die weiterführende Musikschule 2020 mit der Höchstnote (5, gemäß dem serbischen Notensystem) in Klarinette ab. Während seiner Zeit an der Musikschule entwickelte er ein Interesse an Komposition und Kontrapunkt, was zur Entstehung seiner ersten Miniaturen führte, darunter Contemplation für Klavier und Epiphany für Stimme und Klavier.

2022 begann er ein Bachelorstudium in Klarinette an der Kunstakademie in Novi Sad unter der Leitung von Professor Aleksandar Tasić. Als Student trat er auf verschiedenen Musikfestivals als Solist und Kammermusiker auf, darunter beim renommierten A-Fest in Novi Sad. Außerdem arrangierte er Werke für verschiedene Kammerensembles und komponierte ein Buch mit 15 Etüden für Klarinette, inspiriert von einer Idee von Professor Tasić. Diese Etüden entstanden zwischen Juni und September 2024.



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Kafkaesque

B $\flat$ CLARINET

A Fantasy Piece for Clarinet Solo

1. Preludio

Radovan Stojanović

Liberamente (ca. $\text{♩} = 117$) poco accel.

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f recitativo *mf* *simile*

p *f* pesante *mf* cresc. poco accel.

poco rit. *come prima* *mf* *p*

mf *f* *mp* *f* pesante poco accel.

mf *simile* *simile*

simile *come prima* *mp* poco accel.

mf cresc. *6* *6* *6* *6*

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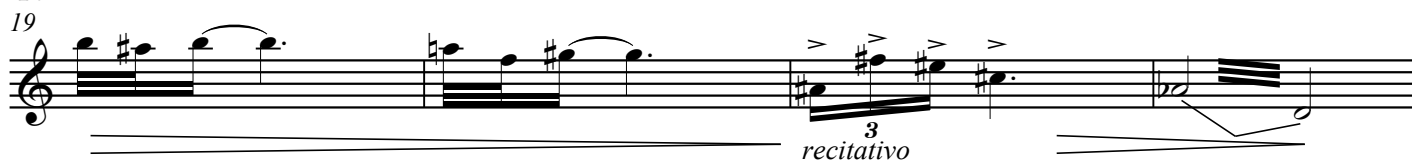
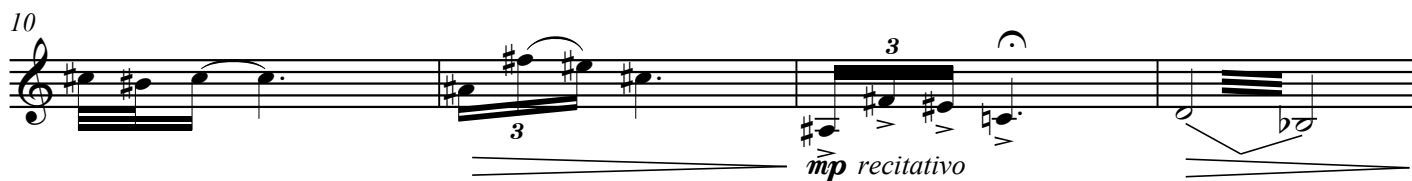
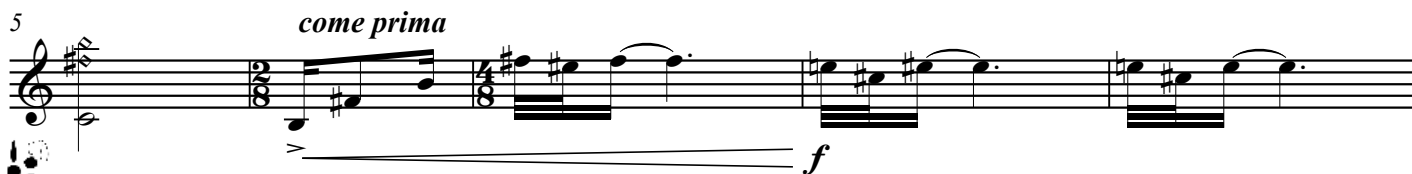
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2. Homunculus

Andante mosso ♩ = 100

Preferably Clarinet in A



3. Pandemonium

1a volta frullato
2a volta senza frull.

1a volta gliss.
2a volta chrom.

Vivo ♩ = 78
(2a volta without slap tongue)

ad lib.

(D.C. al Fine senza rep.)

FF

FINE

f

8

poco rall.

Più mosso (cca. ♩ = 87)

mp

f

4x

f

p

13

f

p

sfz

f

p

18

f

p

f

22

p

f

6

f

f

26

p

f

p

f

30

sfz

f

p

f

34

p

f

6

f

frull.

f

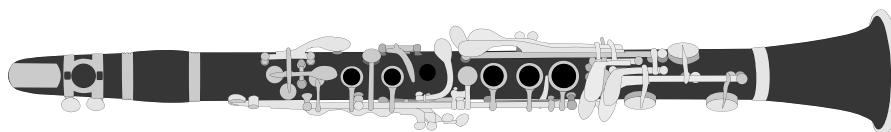
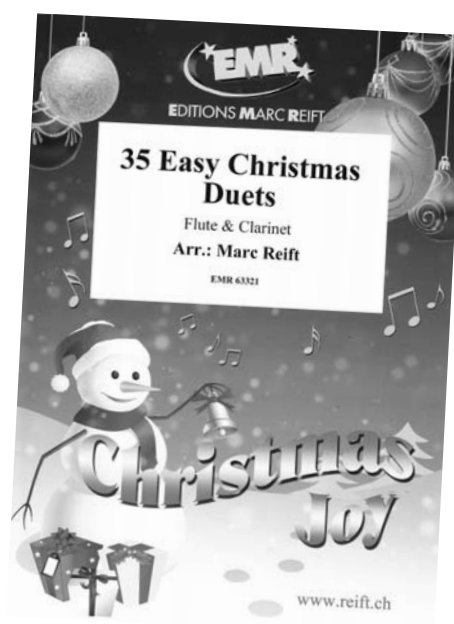
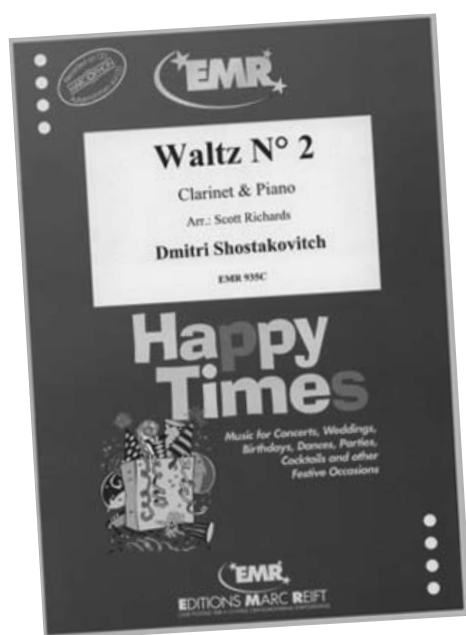
4. Pan's garden

Liberamente

Preferably Clarinet in A

3 *mp sostenuto* *f*
 5 *cresc.* 6
 7 *mp misterioso* *mp*
 8 *cresc.*
 9 *mp*
 10 *pp*
 11 *mf*
 12 *p* *reper* *mf poco dim.*

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