

Jessica Rudman

NAPOLEON COMPLEX

for Solo Percussion

{2007}

Program Notes

The idea for *Napoleon Complex* came from one of my dogs: Quiz is a Chihuahua-dachshund mix that thinks he is much bigger than his actual 15-pound size. His loud, sometimes defensive barking brought the phrase “Napoleon Complex” to my mind around the time I was deciding what kind of piece to write for Michael Lunoe, who had requested something to play on a recital in 2007. The music represents a mélange of imagery stemming (though sometimes distantly) from that expression.

Napoleon Complex was awarded first prize in the 2009 Con/un/drum Solo Percussion Composition Competition.

About the Notation

The music is notated as a timbrack with different chromatic pitches representing ten different instruments. Four of the instruments are specified below. The remaining six should be chosen by the performer and correspond to the pitches: A, A#/Bb, B, C#/Db, D (fourth line), and D#/Eb.

D (below staff): flexatone
G#/Ab: tambourine
C: toy snare drum
F: triangle

for Mike Lunoe

NAPOLEON COMPLEX

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

With a Surreal March-like Feel, ca. ♩=60

p *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

5 *n* *mf* *f* *pp* *mf* *ppp* *f*

9 *pp* *mf* *mp* *n* *p* *pp* *n* *p*

12 *mp* *p* *f* *mf*

16 *mp* *n* *p* *n* *pp* *n* *ppp*

20 *mp* *f* *ff* *mf* *mp*

24 *pp* *mf*

26

ppp *f* *ppp* *mf* *f*

30

ff *ppp*

35

ppp *mp* *sfz* *p* *mp* *mf*

39

p *ff*

41

pp *mp*

43

f sub. *pp*

45

accel.

f

49

♩ = 72 - 76

52

f

54

56

58

Vocalize rhythms, imitating any desired percussion noises.
For diamond noteheads, imitate the flexatone.

60

fff *p*

p

62

Musical score for measures 62-63. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with five-measure brackets and a triplet of eighth notes.

64

Musical score for measures 64-65. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with five-measure brackets and a five-measure phrase.

66

Musical score for measures 66-67. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with five-measure brackets and a five-measure phrase.

Begin accelerating and crescendoing on the second time through. Keep repeating until you can't take it anymore. Give a theatrical scream of frustration and turn away from the audience. Start yelling the vocalized rhythms and march away, pretending to play an invisible marching drum. When off-stage, fade out the vocalizations. Wait for audience to realize the piece is over before returning to the stage.