

Neil Luck

Bubbles

For solo belcher and misc. ensemble

(2009)

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Premiere: ARCO, Vilnius, Lithuania

Performance Directions

Bubbles is in effect an arrangement of the song *I'm Forever Blowing bubbles* by John Kellette. Scored for Belcher and misc. Ensemble, ideally the lineup used should contain some melody, and some bass instruments.

Harmony instruments (Piano, guitar, Harp) are also welcome, and should perform according to the chord symbols.

Belcher

This part is scored for an individual performer drinking (ideally) Coca-Cola, and belching. This should be amplified. Timing of belches is free, except for in the last few bars of the final repeat, where a relatively loud belch *must* occur.

This performer also initiates the start of the piece with the open, or 'uncorking' of the Coca-cola bottle.

Ensemble

The ensemble performs from the score, but should also respond to the belcher. The ensemble need not be amplified. Following the initial opening of the bottle, the ensemble should begin playing the score from bar 1. However, they should take their cue for the performance dynamic from the dynamic and force of each belch. Following each belch, the ensemble should play at a corresponding dynamic, before 'dying away' to silence. Even when silent, however, the ensemble should continue to follow the score in time, not pausing, but re-entering at each belch together, at the corresponding point.

Overall Structure

Overall *Bubbles* maps out a fairly straightforward 'drama' of sorts. Following the initial opening of the bottle, we hear the first musical phrase, which dies away to silence. From then on, the score is played twice through, following the dynamic contour of the belcher. Shortly before the 2nd time bar, somewhere between bars 28 and 31 the belcher should ensure they belch. This should trigger a final *crescendo* in the ensemble toward the last two bars of the piece.

Bubbles

John Kелlette arr. Neil Luck

Audible opening of coke
bottle/breaking of seal
(1st time only) ♩=c.72

Voice *sfz* Drink and belch freely *al fine*.....

Melody (in C) A [arco] D A D D#° A/E F#m7

(*mp*)
(1st time only)
[pizz.]
l.v.

Bass (in C) *sim.*

Voice *sim.*

Mel. D A D A D#° E7 A

Bass

19 *sim.*

Voice

Mel.

Bass

G#m7 D D7 E E7 A

27 *sim.*

Voice

Mel.

Bass

D A Bm7 C#m7 Cm7 Bm7 E7

1. 2. (belched) *f*

1. 2. A [pizz.] A [pizz.] *mf*

(*mp*) (2nd time only - you must belch within this bracket)

(*mf*) (2nd time only - begins from any belch within this bracket)