Score

Shooting Darts in London

Poetry - Jacob Miller (1977)

Music - Peter Jarvis (2015)

Opus 36

Shooting Darts in London Music - Peter Jarvis, Opus 36 (2015) Poem – Jacob Miller (1977)

Instrumentation

- Bass Clarinet
- Horn in F
- Trumpet in B flat
- Bass Trombone
- Narrator
- Drum Set
- Electric Guitar

Performance Notes

- Accidentals apply only to the register in which they appear and are cancelled at the bar line in the traditional manner.
- There is no drum set part; therefore the drummer and narrator read from score. There are parts for all of the other players.
- The Narrator must be amplified.
- Solo durations do not need to be exact, i.e. if a solo says 5 bars; it can be a bit shorter or longer at the discretion of the player.
- The drumset has no notated music; therefore it can consist of any number of drums and cymbals. However, the drum set should be traditional and consist of only drums and cymbals.
- The electric guitar should be heard with effects throughout.
- Mute substitutions may be made at the discretion of the players.

Program Note

Agreeing to my request, Jacob Miller sent me several of his poems for consideration, for this project. I admire Jacob's work very much and I was taken by each poem he sent. Having too much material to work with, which is a nice "problem" to have, I immediately chose *Shooting Darts in London*. I instantly connected with the poetry as such, and I have been a league dart player for many years.

The piece is divided into sections of poetry with drumset and sections where the ensemble plays without percussion or words. So, the piece is ever shifting from duo to quintet and never employs the entire ensemble at any one time.

- Peter Jarvis

Shooting Darts in London, 1977

Beside the old oak bar in the Chelsea Pub, we were the young Yanks, with our most precious asset, our inexperience, leading us by our longings.

Waiting to shoot darts,
engine already revving,
you were the girl
rubbing her cheek against
the shoulder of my leather jacket.

"Can we go?"

"No, let's have another pint."

And we did stay,
drank too much,
even eventually
shot darts
surprisingly half-decently,
you better than me,
despite throwing
in the blind,
half-dancing, half-spinning,
half-out of your mind.

Then you fell into my arms, your eyes blinking hope, lashes fluttering promise— "I'll always love you," you said, "and I'll never leave you."

And even today,
I can hear your words,
like distant music
fading down a hall.

Of course, I knew it was all nonsense, even then, even when I saw nothing ahead but our end.

It was just two years later, you left over coffee—

"Oh, this coffee's good,"
you politely remarked,
"Can I have another cup
and a divorce."

"Why?"

"Because I'm thirsty."

"No, not the coffee the divorce?"

You squinted at that—
perhaps saw again
the cork bulls-eye—
then let the feathered dart fly.

--Jacob Miller

Shooting Darts in London

Poem by Jacob Miller Peter Jarvis (2014) Opus 36 = 7660-90 seconds of poetry reading and improvised drumming. Bass Clarinet Horn in F Trumpet in Bb Bass Trombone 60-90 seconds of poetry reading and improvised drumming. Besides the old oak bar in the great Chelsea Pub, we were young Yanks, with our most precious asset, our experience, leading us by our longings. Narrator 60-90 seconds of poetry reading and improvised drumming. mostly cymbals alone Drum Set = 76 Electric Guitar





















































