

STEVEN SNOWDEN

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

FOR CLARINET IN B \flat , PIANO

AND ELECTRONICS



STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

This work was composed for CULTIVATE 2014, Copland House's emerging composers' institute, and was premiered by the Music from Copland House ensemble at the Merestead estate in Mount Kisco, NY on June 22, 2014.

PROGRAM NOTES:

Steam Man of the Prairies was a dime store science fiction novel written by Edward S. Ellis in 1868 and is widely considered to be the earliest depiction of a humanoid robot in popular culture. Despite Ellis's rather clumsy writing style and overtly racist depictions of Irish immigrants and Native Americans, this novel provides an interesting perspective on the excitement surrounding innovations in steam technology and exploration of the Western United States in the late 1800's.

Just as the *Steam Man* represented the attainment of superhuman capabilities through the use of technology, this piece utilizes electronics to expand the sonic palate of the piano and clarinet. By limiting electronically produced sounds to only recordings of extended piano techniques (bowed, plucked, muted, and scraped) my goal was to create a sonic bridge between the timbres of the clarinet and piano in an attempt to create the illusion of a single super-instrument. As a means to take this sonic cohesion one step further, performers have the option to forgo amplification of the electronic sounds with a typical loudspeaker setup in favor of small vibration speakers on the soundboard of the piano. This method allows the strings of the piano to vibrate sympathetically with the electronics and takes advantage of the instrument's natural acoustic resonance.

-Steven Snowden

Score is in C

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

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STEVEN SNOWDEN

Like a prolonged scream

♩ = 96
(empty bar)

Clarinet in B \flat

Piano

strum lowest 3-4 octaves of strings with credit card

fff *ff* *mf* *f*

tr

Ped.

Gradually dissolving

4

Cl.

Pno.

mp *f* *p* *f* *p*

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

6

Cl.

Pno.

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

f *mp* *p* *mp*

tr

8 *(tr)*

Cl. *p pp mp p*

Pno. *mf p mp³ pp mf*

gradually lift pedal to hear individual dampers touch the strings

12

Cl. *ppp ppp pp mp*

Pno. *Silently depress pitches*

* *Sos. Ped. _____ (hold down until M. 71)*

19 Serene, but with a strong sense of anticipation

Cl. *mp ppp pp ppp mp*

Pno. *mp pp*

Ped. _____

25 Pno.

Cl. *mp pp*

Pno. *mp pp*

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

29

Cl.

p *pp*

Ped. _____

32

Cl.

Pno.

mp *p* *pp*

mp *pp*

Ped. _____

38

40

Cl.

Pno.

mp *ppp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mp*

mp *mp* *pp*

Ped. _____

43

Cl.

Pno.

p *ppp* *tr* *pp* *ppp*

b8

b8

48

Cl.

Pno.

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

mp

51

Cl.

Pno.

p *mf* *p* *ppp*

pp

55

Match articulation and dynamics to short bowed piano sound in the electronics

Cl.

ppp

Pno.

mp

7

8^{vb}

58

Cl.

p *ppp* *ppp*

Pno.

mf

3

61

Cl.

Pno.

63

Cl. *p* *ppp* *ppp*

Pno. *mp*

66

Cl. *ppp*

Pno.

68

Cl. *mp* *ppp*

Pno. *p*

71

Cl. *ppp*

Pno.

release Sos. Ped

STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES

73

Cl.

Pno.

mp *pp* *ppp*

Pno.

mf *mp*

2

2

78

Cl.

Pno.

ppp

80

Cl.

Pno.

p

82

Cl.

Pno.

ppp

84 **85** ♩ = 128 (← $\frac{1}{2}$ ♩ = $\frac{1}{3}$ ♩ →)

Cl. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

87 **Gradually accumulating rhythmic density**

Cl. *ppp* - *ppp*

Pno. *p* *pp*

91

Cl.

Pno. *p*

96

Cl. *pp*

Pno. *mp* *mp*

101

Cl. *p*

Pno. *ppp*

p *pp*

106

Cl.

Pno. *pp*

ppp *p*

111

Cl. **112**

pp *p*

Pno. *mp*

pp

115

Cl.

Pno. *p*

p

119

Cl.

Pno.

pp

mp

123

Cl.

Pno.

p

127

Cl.

Pno.

pp

130

Cl.

Pno.

mp

134

Cl.

Pno.

p *pp*

138 A bit funky

Cl.

Pno.

p *pp* *p*

142

Cl.

Pno.

mp *mp* *p*

146

Cl.

Pno.

pp

151

Cl.

Pno.

155

Cl.

Pno.

timbre trill
Escalating intensity

tr

pp \leftarrow *mf*

mf

160 Bold, impassioned

159

growl

Cl.

Pno.

p \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ff* \rightarrow *mp*

162

Cl. *ff*

Pno. *p* *mf* *8va*

165

Cl.

Pno. *p* *f* *p* *8va*

169

Cl. *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Pno. *mf* *p* *f*

173

Cl.

Pno.

177

Cl.

Pno.

180

Cl.

Pno.

15^{ma}

182

Cl.

Pno.

(15)

mp *pp*

mf

184

Cl.

Pno.

(15)

186

Cl. *mp*

Pno. (15) *mp*

189

Cl. *p* *ppp*

Pno. (15) *p* *pp*

193

Cl. *p* *mf*

Pno. (15) *ppp*

198

$\text{♩} = 96$ Serene again, but this time with a sense of prolonged resolution

Cl.

Pno.

206 Cl.

Pno.

211 Cl.

Pno.

215

Cl.

tr

ppp *pp* *mp* *p* *ppp* *mp*

Pno.

220

Cl.

pp *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Pno.

223

Cl.

pp *p* *ppp*

8va---
mf

timbre trill
speed slows as dynamic level decreases

226

Cl.

fpp *>n* *fpp* *>n* *fpp* *>n*

(8)
p