

# **Apache Fire Dance**

for alto flute and piano

**Joseph Dangerfield**

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### **Program Note**

Recently, I lost my grandmother, whose influence had a resounding impact on my life. Once she was gone, it occurred to me that who she was is no longer available to me, even through memory, which is often imperfect. As I contemplated writing this piece for Amanda, I realized that the same is true of the music of indigenous cultures. Everything was learned by rote, and with the disappearance of many Native American tribes, so, too, were their musical legacies vanishing. I searched through the J. Donald Robb Music Trust, held at the University of New Mexico and discovered an audio recording of the Apache Fire Dance. The recording was imperfect, complete with static and wavering sound quality. I wondered how I could represent it in my work without a "perfect" example of the musical aspects, and decided that I did not need one. I could illustrate the loss of a culture through illusion; through the veil of time and space. If we could hear and see the Apache dance, it might sound fragmented complete with images floating through the wave of time, from the other side of the veil, in another universe, perhaps. This is the image I tried to capture in my work.

### **Performance Note**

The piano is prepared with two "bobby pin" hair clips. Place them, facing one another, on the strings between B4 and E5 (assuming that middle C is C4). Leave these in for the duration of the work.

Ca. Timing: 8:30

# Apache Fire Dance

for alto flute and piano

Joseph Dangerfield (b. 1977)

Slow, flowing ♩ = 69

G Flute

sounding

mostly air/flz effect flz.

fingering

*p* *mp* *p*

Piano

*ppp*

Ped.

ped. ad lib., in general, err on the side of resonant

8

G Fl.

flz.

*p* *mp* *p*

8<sup>va</sup>

alternate between 3rd finger l.h., and 1st and 3rd finger r.h.

3 5 *f* *sub.p* 5 *f* *sub.p*

Pno.

*ppp*

2

G Fl.

flz.

mp

f

p

f

f

Ha-nah yo ha-nah

Yo ha-nah yo ha-nah

Pno.

16

G Fl.

Yo ha-nah hey ya

f

spit tongue

flz.

p

mp

p

Pno.

ppp

ppp

pp

8va

8va

alternate randomly, irregularly between 3rd finger l.h., and 1st and 3rd finger r.h.

21

G Fl.

8<sup>va</sup> Ha-nah yo ha-nah Yo ha-nah yo\_ ha-nah Ha-nah yo ha-nah Yo ha-nah yo\_ ha-nah no thumb

*f* *p* *f* *p*

Pno.

27

G Fl.

Yo ha-nah yo\_ ha-nah no thumb

*< mf >* *f* *p* *< mf >*

Pno.

loco

breathy tone,  
with some pitch

35

G Fl.

Yo ha-nah yo\_ ha-nah

no thumb

no thumb

8va- Yo ha-nah yo\_

no thumb

*f* *< mf >* *p* *mp* *< mf >* *p* *< mf >*

Pno.

42

G Fl.

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

Pno.

*mf* *pp*



63

G Fl.

Pno.

*f*

*sub.p*

*f*

*f*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 63 to 70. The G Flute part (top staff) begins with a rest in measure 63, followed by a melodic line starting in measure 64 with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Piano part (bottom staves) features a complex accompaniment with various dynamics, including *sub.p* (sub-piano) and *f* (forte). Above the G Flute staff, there are fingering diagrams for the right hand, showing fingerings for notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.

70

G Fl.

Pno.

*sfzp*

*f*

*sub.p*

*f*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 70 to 76. The G Flute part (top staff) starts with a melodic line in measure 70 marked with *sfzp* (sforzando piano) and a fingering of 5. The Piano part (bottom staves) provides accompaniment with dynamics including *f* (forte) and *sub.p* (sub-piano). The time signature changes from 7/8 to 3/4 and then to 5/4. The system concludes with a double bar line in measure 76.



74

G Fl.

Pno.

*f* 5

*p* *f*

79

G Fl.

Pno.

5

*p*

Slow, outside of time/distant

*sub.p* *f*

Slow, outside of time/distant

*sub.p* *p*

86

G Fl.

Pno.

90

G Fl.

Pno.

Repeat until piano signals to move forward

98 ♩ = 69 - 72

G Fl.

*ff* 6

no thumb

*p* *mf* *p*

Pno.

*ff*

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

105

G Fl.

no thumb

Pno.

10

♩ = 112

G Fl.

*f*

*mp*

Pno.

*mp*

*poco rit.*

119

*A bit Slower*

G Fl.

*mp*

*p*

*A bit Slower*

*poco rit.*

*A bit Slower*

Pno.

*p*

*pp*

125 **Slower still** **poco rit.** Freely ♩ = 69 - 72| 1

G Fl.

**Slower still** **poco rit.** Freely ♩ = 69 - 72

Pno.

132

G Fl.

Pno.

138

G Fl.

flz.

*p* *mp* *p*

Pno.

*fff* *8va* *15<sup>ma</sup>* *ppp*

145

G Fl.

flz.

*p* *mp* *p*

Pno.

mouth without sound

152

G Fl.

Pno.

flz.

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

yo\_ ha-nah yo\_ ha-nah

yo\_ ha-nah

*pppp* *ppp*