

Kurt Mortensen

August Horizons

For B \flat Clarinet & Guitar

Full Score

August Horizons

Duration: ca. 5 minutes

First performance:

This piece has yet to be performed.

for more information about Kurt Mortensen's music visit:
<http://www.kurtmortensen.org>

Program Notes By The Composer

August Horizons is a very personal piece because it was written specifically for my girlfriend Susan Tarson for her thirtieth birthday. Although she plays a wide variety of world music instruments, piano and clarinet are her main “classical” focuses. I wanted a piece which we could play together and since guitar was my instrument, I decided that a piece for clarinet and guitar would be a good choice. This short bagatelle is quite different from my other music as there are no theoretical principles behind the piece nor any hidden compositional processes. Instead, this is music straight from the heart and I simply relied on what I felt and what sounded good to me. In the end, the overall structure of the piece has an arch form which can be diagrammed A-B-C-B-A (to oversimplify slightly). Although there are no clandestine procedures concealed within the music, there is some hidden information in the name of the piece. Susan’s birthday is August 5, therefore the title contains the word August and the piece lasts about 5 minutes. August 2000 was an important time for both Susan and myself as it marked a new phase in our lives. At that time we had recently finished our graduate studies at Northern Illinois University and we moved in together, ready to start out post-school endeavors. According Webster’s dictionary August is also an adjective meaning “marked by majestic dignity or grandeur.” The title August Horizons can therefore be viewed as meaning the beginning of an illustrious life together, which happened to begin in August.

for Susan
August Horizons

for B \flat , Clarinet and Guitar

Kurt Mortensen
2000

$\text{♩} = 110$

The musical score is arranged in five systems, each with a B \flat Clarinet part on the top staff and a Guitar part on the bottom staff. The piece is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 110 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B \flat major or D \flat minor). The guitar part includes a capo on the 3rd fret. The score is marked with various dynamics: *pp*, *mf*, *f*, and *p*. The guitar part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests, often marked with accents. The clarinet part consists of melodic lines with slurs and ties. Measure numbers 1 through 22 are indicated at the bottom of the guitar staff. The piece concludes with a final measure in the fifth system.

B, Cl. *mf*

Gtr. *mf*

23 24 25 26 27

B, Cl. *p*

Gtr. *mp*

28 29 30 31 32 33

A ♩ = 95

B, Cl. *p* *mf*

Gtr. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

34 35 36

B, Cl.

Gtr. *sfz* *mf*

37 38 39

B, Cl.

Gtr. *f*

40 41 42

B, Cl.

Gtr.

43 44 45 46

mf

mf

B, Cl.

Gtr.

47 48

B, Cl.

Gtr.

49 50 51 52 53

p

mf

mp

mf

B

B, Cl.

Gtr.

54 55 56

B, Cl.

Gtr.

57 58 59

f

f

B, Cl. C

Gtr.

60 61 62 63

In the style of a Hebrew folk melody

B, Cl.

Gtr.

64 65 66

B, Cl.

Gtr.

67 68 69

B, Cl.

Gtr.

70 71 72 73

B, Cl.

Gtr.

74 75 76

B, Cl.

Gtr.

77 78 79

D

B, Cl.

Gtr.

p *mf*

mp *f mp* *f sfz*

80 81 82

B, Cl.

Gtr.

f *mf*

mf

83 84 85

B, Cl.

Gtr.

f *mf*

f

86 87 88

B, Cl.

Gtr.

89 90 91

B, Cl. *p* *mf*

Gtr. *mp* *mf* 92 93

E ♩ = 110

B, Cl. *mf*

Gtr. 94 95 96 97

B, Cl. *f*

Gtr. *f* 98 99 100

B, Cl. *mf* *mf* *f*

Gtr. *mf* *mf* *f* 101 102 103 104

B, Cl. *mf*

Gtr. 105 106 107 *mf* 108

B \flat Cl. *f* \curvearrowright *mf* *f*

Gtr. *f*

109 110 111 112

B \flat Cl.

Gtr.

113 114 115 116

B \flat Cl. *mf*

Gtr. *mf*

117 118 119 120

B \flat Cl. *f* *ff*

Gtr. *mf*

121 122 123 124 125

B \flat Cl. *f* *mf* *mp*

Gtr.

126 127 128 129

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