

Jason V. Barabba

*...shouting advice from the
international dateline, being mistaken
for god...*

for Oboe and Piano

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for oboe and piano

Duration - Approximately 7 Minutes

Program Note

The impetus for this piece started with an episode of Stephen Fry's BBC quiz show *QI*. In the episode dedicated to "Quite Interesting" facts about geometry, Stephen and the four panelists had a quite lengthy discussion about the international dateline.

The panelists were asked about a place where you could look into the future, the answer being the international dateline, because you skip a day when you cross over it. Amongst the jokes about hopping over the line and stopping yourself from making a huge mistake, panelist Johnny Vegas said the following.

"Me personally (but, I'm selfish), what I would do I'd get a jet ski and stay on the line and go around the world... and I would just go around the world continually, following that line, shouting advice and being mistaken for God."

The moment doesn't translate well into written text, but, it struck me when he said that that he was being accidentally quite profound, and the line stuck with me long after the rest of the show was forgotten.

When I sat down to write this piece, I conceived it on two levels of influence from the quote that I'm taking the title from. First, the most direct, is the idea of someone zipping up and down the international dateline on a jet ski shouting advice at the passersby as he zooms by. But, on another level, there is the interesting possibility of finding a profound moment somewhere you least expect one. So, in this piece there is the kind of frantic running about, but there's also a more contemplative section that pops pretty much out of nowhere. The piece ends with both ideas intermingled, and the closest thing to a fadeout possible in live, unprocessed performance. Essentially, the protagonist of this piece never stops shouting advice at people, they've just moved past us on to the next folks.

...shouting advice from the international dateline, being mistaken for god... is registered with ASCAP.

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May 2011

Spritely (Approx. ♩=92)

Musical score for measures 1-4. The oboe part (top staff) is mostly silent, with a long note in measure 4 marked *mp*. The piano part (middle and bottom staves) features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand with a triplet in measure 4.

Musical score for measures 5-7. The oboe part (top staff) begins with a melodic line marked *f* in measure 5, transitioning to *mf* in measure 7. The piano part (middle and bottom staves) continues with a complex accompaniment, including a triplet in the left hand in measure 7.

Musical score for measures 8-10. The oboe part (top staff) is silent in measure 8, then plays a melodic line marked *f* in measures 9-10. The piano part (middle and bottom staves) features a complex accompaniment with triplets in the left hand in measures 8 and 9.

11

mp *mf*

f *mf*

p

14

f 3

(mf) *f*

mf

17

3 *mp* *f*

mp

20

mp *f* *mf* *mp*

mf *mp*

24

mf *mp* *mf* *fff*

mf *f*

30

f *fp*

mf *ff* *mp*

33

f *ff* *f*

f

37

mp

ppp

p *mp*

8^{va}

43

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

f *ff*

mp

(8)-.1

47

mp *mf* *f*

mf *f*

mf

51

ff mf ff mf

53

Maestoso (Approx. $\text{♩} = 60$)

ff mp

ff mf ff f mp

8^{va}

58

mp mf mp f mp mf

mp