



Adam Sovkoplas

Once Upon a Unicorn

C'era una volta un unicorno

Poetry by Helen King Marolf

For Clarinet

Dedication:

Once Upon a Unicorn was composed to be premiered by clarinetist Arianna Tieghi as part of the 2012 International Summer Arts Institute in Città di Castello (Perugia) and Rome, Italy.

Performance Notes:

This piece can be performed as written on Bb, A, or bass clarinet as the performer prefers with no transposition necessary. The performer may also change clarinets during the performance if desired.

The poetry is to be spoken by the performer when indicated in the score. It may be read in either English or Italian as preferred, but not both.



Multiphonics are represented by rectangular noteheads. There are three different multiphonics called for in this work: low (centered around G; the dominant), middle (centered around C; the tonic), and high (centered around B; the leading tone). The performer may use whatever fingering they choose but should attempt to bring out the important pitches.

***Multiphonic fingerings and notes in parenthesis provided by Arianna Tieghi.**



When **throat tones** are used, the effect should be exaggerated. The tones should be airy and breathy.



Timbral trills (trilling between two alternate fingerings of the same pitch) will be represented in two different ways as indicated. The first example indicates a trill that begins slow, gradually becomes faster, gradually becomes slower, and ends slow. In the second example, the trill begins fast and remains constant. These may be used in combination.



This notation indicates that the performer should begin playing a multiphonic and fade into the given pitch.



This rhythmic notation (32nd-notes through whole-note shown) is used for **breath tones** and **key clicks**.

Poetry: Used with permission.

UNICORN by Helen King Marolf

*Once upon a unicorn
As I rode side-saddle on its whiteness
Through the tangled rain forest of
 forever-and-a-day
A voice came from above the arching trees
Proclaiming that in creation there is room
 for every kind of being.
But I could not part the tangled vines or
 thickets
To catch a glimpse of furred and
 feathered and scaled creatures
Stalking or fleeing each other or munching
 foliage beside the quiet waters –
And once a smooth, unstriped, unspotted,
 unwinged wanderer
Standing erect and searching for the voice
 beyond the clouds.
But, feeling akin to none of them,
The flower-clad unicorn and I went on
Into wherever.*

Italian translation by Ioana Larco and Arianna Tieghi

UNICORNO by Helen King Marolf

*C'era una volta un unicorno
Mentre cavalcavo su un lato della sua
 bianchezza
Attraverso l'intricata foresta pluviale
 dell'eternità
Una voce mi arrivò da sopra gli alberi
 inarcati
Proclamando che nella creazione c'è
 spazio per ogni creatura.
Ma non ho potuto aprire un varco tra le
 viti intrecciate e la boscaglia
Per vedere anche di sfuggita creature
 adorne di pelo o piume o scaglie
Inseguirsi o schivarsi l'un l'altre, o
 divorare fogliame accanto ad acque
 tranquille
E una volta un vagabondo, liscio, senza
 strisce né ali,
A schiena dritta, cercava la sua voce al di
 là delle nuvole.
Ma senza la più piccola affinità con
 nessuna di esse
Io e l'unicorno coperto di fiori abbiamo
 continuato la nostra strada
Verso qualunque luogo...*

Program Notes:

Once Upon a Unicorn is a musical dramatization of the poem *Unicorn* written by my great-aunt Helen King Marolf. The reading of the poem is coupled with music of an haunting and mysterious quality designed to compliment the programmatic nature of the poem. The composition was written with clarinetist Arianna Tieghi and the premiere performance in Perugia, Italy in mind. This is why the piece can be performed on a Bb, A, or bass clarinet and the poem may be read in English or Italian as the performer chooses.

Instrumentation: Bb, A, or bass clarinet

Duration: c. 5 minutes

Clarinet
(B \flat , A, or bass)

Once Upon a Unicorn

C'era una volta un unicorno

Based on the poem *Unicorn*

by Helen King Marolf

Adam Sovkoplak

Haunting; Mysterious $\text{♩} = 60$ or slower

Fingering diagram: E, G#

Measure 1: *p*

Measure 2: *p*, *mf*, *p*

Measure 3: *mp*, airy becoming breath tones

Measure 4: *f*

Measure 5: *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, breath only

Measure 6: *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, sotto voce

SPEAK: Once upon a unicorn

PARLANDO: C'era una volta un unicorno

10 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

13 *mf* *p* *rit.*

SPEAK: As I rode side-saddle on its whiteness
Through the tangled rain forest of forever-and-a-day

PARLANDO: Mentre cavalcavo su un lato della sua bianchezza
Attraverso l'intricata foresta pluviale dell'eternità

14 *a tempo* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

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

SPEAK: A voice came from above the arching trees
 Proclaiming that in creation there is room for every kind of being.

PARLANDO: Una voce mi arrivò da sopra gli alberi inarcati
 Proclamando che nella creazione c'è spazio per ogni creatura.

19 airy *mp* random key clicks *ff* *mf* random key clicks *ff*

23 slap tongue *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* airy *mp* *f* *p* *f*

26 *p* *mf* *p* *p* no cresc. *mp* no cresc. *mf* no cresc.

31 airy *p*

32 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* 5

34

A

F

random key clicks

trill

slap tongue

mf > *p* < *ff* > *pp* < *sfz*

SPEAK: But I could not part the tangled vines or thickets
 To catch a glimpse of furred and feathered and scaled creatures
 Stalking or fleeing each other or munching foliage beside the quiet waters -

PARLANDO: Ma non ho potuto aprire un varco tra le viti intrecciate e la boscaglia
 Per vedere anche di sfuggita creature adorne di pelo o piume o scaglie
 Inseguirsi o schivarsi l'un l'altre, o divorare fogliame accanto ad acque
 tranquille

39

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

43

pp (as possible) < *mp* > *pp*

SPEAK: And once a smooth, unstriped, unspotted, unwinged wanderer
 Standing erect and searching for the voice beyond the clouds.

PARLANDO: E una volta un vagabondo, liscio, senza strisce né ali,
 A schiena dritta, cercava la sua voce al di là delle nuvole.

47

mf

48

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

rit.

SPEAK: But, feeling akin to none of them,
 The flower-clad unicorn and I went on
 Into wherever.

PARLANDO: Ma senza la più piccola affinità con nessuna di esse
 Io e l'unicorno coperto di fiori abbiamo continuato la nostra strada
 Verso qualunque luogo...

a tempo *no vibrato*

50

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

54

f *p* *f* *pp* *mp* niente

breath only