
John Webb

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A Cabinet of Pleasure

For solo violin

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A Cabin for Pleasure was commissioned by the Dartington International Summer School. First performed by Monica Huggett at Dartington Hall, 22nd July 2000.

This edition contains some editorial annotations by Monica Huggett.

A Cabinet of Pleasure was commissioned by the Dartington International Summer School for Monica Huggett, who first performed it in Dartington Hall in July 2000. The idea behind the piece stems from Monica's playing style: she has a luxurious sound, which is intensely expressive with a lyrical rubato, and a fiendishly virtuosic technique. However, I not only aimed to compose a piece which suited her as a player but I also wanted to pay homage to Bach's unaccompanied violin works (2000 was the 250th anniversary of his birth). The real challenge, however, was that Monica is a player who has specialised in early music, and is not familiar with twentieth century musical gestures. I had to find a modern language which suited us both. The result refers to techniques which you hear in Bach's violin music, but in a more contemporary idiom. The work is in one movement broken into 5 sections. The first, third and fifth are all based on the same material: a series of harmonies, which also form the climax of the fourth section. The second is a polyphonic dance, and the fourth stretches the players ability with some demanding string crossing.

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John Webb (1969-)

Espressivo rubato (♩=c.50)



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