

Ad Lib(er Abaci)

Perusal Score
Not for performance

AJ Harbison

This is a perusal score only.
For performance materials, please send a request to store@ajharbison.com.
Thank you for your interest in my music!

Ad Lib(er Abaci)

for solo horn in F

AJ Harbison

Program Notes

The title *Ad Lib(er Abaci)* is a play on two Latin phrases, each of which refer to an aspect of the piece. The first, familiar to all musicians, is “ad libitum,” often shortened to “ad lib,” meaning “at the discretion of the performer.” This refers to the free timing of the piece: Each line of music is assigned a time limit, but within that limit the performer is given rhythmic and interpretive freedom. The second Latin phrase is “Liber Abaci,” meaning “The Book of Calculation,” the title of Leonardo Fibonacci’s seminal mathematical work in which he described the sequence of numbers that now bears his name. The piece is organized by means of the Fibonacci sequence, alternating between two contrasting ideas: the first consisting of longer, more fluid lines, the second of shorter bursts of activity. The first section lasts for 89 seconds and the second for 55; the first idea returns and is developed for 34 seconds, and the second for 21; and so on until each idea returns for 1 second and the piece ends. *Ad Lib(er Abaci)* was composed for Shannon McCranor, who premiered the piece in Kansas City, Missouri on February 3, 2014.

Performance Notes

The unmetred notation indicates approximate relative durations through spatial placement and articulation: staccato for short notes, slurs for multiple sustained notes, and thick horizontal lines for single sustained notes. The performer is given interpretive freedom with rhythm, as long as all the events on each system occur within the timing (in seconds) listed at the end of the system. Timings in parentheses are divisions of the total time for a system, not additions to it. For example, in measure 9, the A-flat and rest should be performed in nine seconds, and the staccato notes and rest in the remaining one second.

Quarter rests are the only symbols used for silence, and thus can indicate a pause of any length (within the given timeframe). A rest with a fermata indicates a relatively extended pause.

Tenuto marks indicate both a leaning into the sound (i.e. a slight stress), as well as a separated (non-legato) articulation.

All accidentals apply only to the note they precede.


Key



Flutter tongue



Silence (pause)



Quarter-sharp



Glissando



Sustained note

Duration

ca. 4 minutes

*Composed for the University of Missouri-Kansas City
Horn Co(mp)llaborations, February 2014*

Ad Lib(er Abaci)

AJ Harbison (2013)

Horn in F

Freely

flutter tongue

10"

fp *f* *mp* *mf* *p*

2

10"

f *p*

3

10"

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

4

10"

p *mp* *p*

5

10"

mf *mp* *f* *p*

6

10"

mf *p* *f* *p*

7

10"

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

8 10"

mf ————— *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

9 (9)" 10"

fp ————— *f* ————— *mp* ————— *mf* ————— *p* *f*

10 10"

f ————— *fp* ————— *f*

11 10"

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

p ————— *f*

12 10"

f ————— *p* *fp* ————— *pp*

13 10"

lip trill on 1 and 2
start slow and accelerate into trill

pp ————— *f*

14 10"

mf ————— *f* > *mf* ————— *p* *f* ————— *p* *f*

15 10"

p *ff* *fp* *f* *mf*

16 10"

f *mp* *p*

17 10"

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

18 10"

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

p *fp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

19 10"

mp *f* *mf* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *f*

20 10"

mf *mp* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

21 10"

f *mp* *mf* *p*

22 (2") 10"

fp *pp* *mf* *f* *<ff* *>f* *<ff*

23 (5") (3") 10"

fp *mp* *p* *f*

24 as many repetitions as possible in 1 second (1") (1")

ff *fff*

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

Kansas City, 2013