

Sedge Fen

(3 Oboes Drifting)

Paul Burnell

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Composed 2009

Duration 4:45 approx.

When performed by 3 oboes only this piece is called '3 Oboes Drifting' and begins at bar 2.

When performed by a different or larger ensemble it is called 'Sedge Fen'.

When reading from the score, parts 1, 2 and 3 may change lines where indicated [1], [2], [3].

The part 4 drone is optional and may be played an octave higher or lower.

If played by a large ensemble some instruments may alternate between parts 3 and 4. Part 3 may be played an octave lower. If necessary reduce the number of players on part 3 at bar 58 to achieve a pianissimo dynamic. If voices are part of the ensemble, female voices may sing part 3 to 'oo' and male voices may sing part 4 with an open-lipped hum 'nn' or 'uu'.

Programme note

'Sedge Fen (3 Oboes Drifting)' is a companion piece to 'Tricorder (3 Oboes Dancing)' both of which can be performed by 3 oboes or by different or larger ensembles.

Sedges are flowering plants that superficially resemble grasses or rushes. Members of the sedge family have triangular stems (with occasional exceptions), and their leaves are spirally arranged in three ranks.

A fen is a type of wetland fed by surface and/or groundwater.

Sedge Fen is a small village in Suffolk, a few miles from Lakenheath, close to the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk borders.

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Very slow and flexible ♩ = 48 approx.

Musical score for measures 1-7. The score is for three oboes (1, 2, 3) and a bassoon (4). The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is 'Very slow and flexible' with a quarter note equal to approximately 48 beats. The dynamics are marked as *long* and *mp*. The bassoon part (4) is marked *p* and ends with 'continues...'. There are first, second, and third endings indicated by [1], [2], and [3].

Musical score for measures 8-12. The score is for three oboes (1, 2, 3) and a bassoon (4). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked as *p*. There are first, second, and third endings indicated by [1], [2], and [3]. A section labeled 'A' is marked above measure 10.

Musical score for measures 13-17. The score is for three oboes (1, 2, 3) and a bassoon (4). The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked as *cresc.*, *mf*, *dim.*, and *mp*. The tempo is marked *rall.* with a dashed line. There are first, second, and third endings indicated by [1], [2], and [3].

B

a tempo

19 [3] [2]

1 *p*

2 [1] *p* [3]

3 [2] [1] *p*

24 [1] [2] [3]

1

2

3

29 [3] [2] *rall.*

1 *dim.* *pp* [3] *cresc.* *mf*

2 *dim.* *pp* [3] *cresc.* *mf*

3 [2] [1] *dim.* *pp* *cresc.* *mf*

35 *Slower* ♩ = 40 approx. [1] [2] [3] *rall.*

1 *p* *f* *dim.* *p*

2 *p* *f* *dim.* *p*

3 [3] *f* *dim.* *p*

4 *P*(drone) *f* drone stops *dim.* *P* continues... *p*

C Slower again ♩ = 40 approx.

40 [3] [2]

1 *cresc.* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

2 *cresc.* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

3 *cresc.* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

46 [1] [2] [3]

1 *ff* *mf* *mp*

2 *ff* *mf* *mp*

3 *ff* *mf* *mp*

52 [3] [2] [1]

1 *p*

2 *p*

3 *p*

58 [1] [3] [2]

1 *pp*

2 *pp*

3 *pp*

4 *pp* (drone) *drone stops*