

Steven Webb

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Fantasia/Aphantasia

Piano
Violin

Programme Notes:

Recently defined in 2015, Aphantasia, a condition where one does not possess a functioning mind's eye, intrigued me. I could not imagine (no pun intended), not being able to recall visual memories of previous events in my life. Trying to apply this condition to sound seemed like a fascinating exercise. Since the root of the word 'Aphantasia' came from a similar place as the musical form, 'Fantasia' (fantasy), it seemed like a natural starting point in which to examine it from a musical standpoint.

The repeating notes throughout the piece attempt to convey the concept of being stuck mentally – of not being able to move past a concept of an idea, and onto mentally visualizing it. At the same time, a Fantasia, is a improvisational genre, and although the piece itself does not contain wholly improvisational sections, I tried to compose it in that fashion, with all of the main ideas being improvised by myself on the piano, and containing that quasi-improvisational feel to them.

About the Composer:

Originally from South Africa, Steven Webb (b.1989) is a Toronto based performer, composer, and audio engineer. Steven has written music for a wide variety of ensembles, and his repertoire includes choral, chamber, and orchestral music. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by: The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Thin Edge New Music Collective, The University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, Exultate Chamber Singers, and Prairie Voices, among many others.

As a film composer, Steven has worked on a number of noteworthy projects including 'Chopin's Heart' for The National Screen Institute, and 'Period Piece', winner of the best Canadian Short Film at the Toronto After Dark Film Festival. Steven is a member of SOCAN, an Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre, and a member of the Screen Composers Guild of Canada.



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Fantasia / Aphantasia

Steven Webb (b. 1989)

Resolutely ♩=112

flautando

Violin

ff

subito pp

Piano

ff

pp

Red.

una corda

5

Vln.

Pno.

9

norm. → *sul pont.* → norm.

Vln.

mp

Pno.

mp

tr

Red.

3

13 **A**

Vln. *3* *5* *ricochet* *accel.*

Pno.

17

norm. _____

Vln. *f*

Pno. *f* *tr* *f*

red.

20

→ sul pont. poco accel.

Vln.

Pno. *6* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

red.

Overpressure

4

22

Vln.

Pno.

fff

fff

random clusters

Slam piano lid shut

24

B Freely ♩=92

Vln.

Pno.

pp

pp

Red.

31

sul tasto

Vln.

Pno.

p

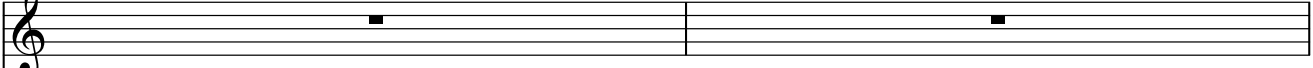
pp

ppp

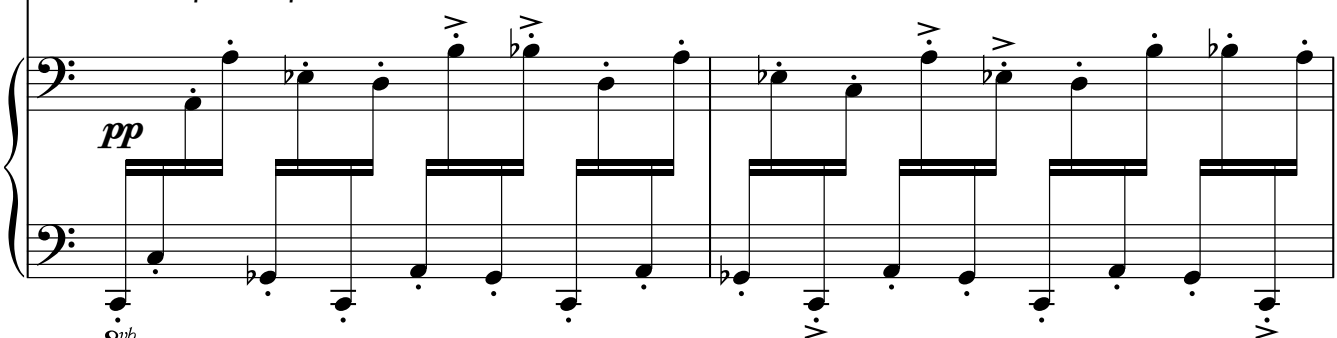
pp

ppp

ppp 8^{vb}

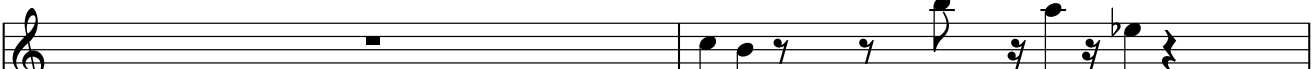
Vln. 

cresc. poco a poco

Pno. 

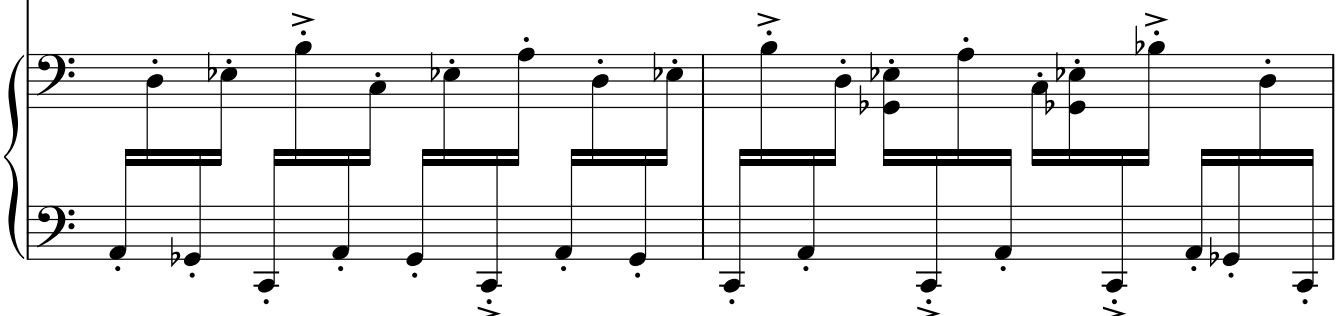
pp

8^{vb}

Vln. 

pizz.

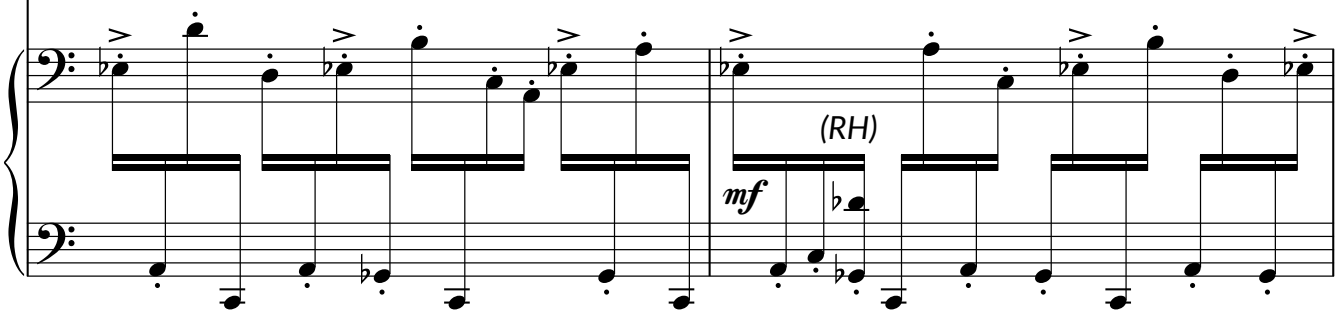
mp

Pno. 

(8)

Vln. *arco*
sul pont.

pp

Pno. 

mf (RH)

(8)

43

Vln. *gliss.* *ord.* *f*

Pno. *f*

(8)

45

Vln. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff*

(8)...

48

Vln. *pp* *tr*

Pno. *p* *tr*

51

Vln. *f*

Pno. *f*

53

Vln. *ff* *pizz.*

Pno. *Red.*

56

Vln. *pp* *sul tasto* *arco* *rit.*

Pno. *p* *Red.*