

**Edward Cowie**

**The Soft Complaining Flute**

**Version 2, for Baroque Flute & Piano**





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## THE SOFT COMPLAINING FLUTE

### Version 2, for baroque flute and piano

The original version of *The Soft Complaining Flute* was commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for The BBC Singers with an additional solo part for baroque flute. 6 sopranos were used and the sung texts were drawn from Dryden's *A Song for St Cecilia's Day*, published in 1687. It is a text imbued with a melancholic mood though it also tender and even rapturous at times.

On receiving an enquiry from an American flautist as to whether there was another version of the work without the 6 sopranos, I was moved by that player's enthusiasm for the work, and began to wonder if another version could be composed for piano and baroque flute. The great baroque flautist, Stephen Preston, had inspired and indeed informed many of the new techniques in the flute part - especially advanced techniques devised by him and called *ecosonics*. These consist of new forms of cross-fingering together with new approaches to shaping sounds with the lips, teeth and mouth cavity as well as innovative forms of breathing.

This new version retains the flute part intact from Version 1. The piano part also tries (at times) to evoke *vocal sound* whilst at the same time being used as a kind of (painterly) 'ground' or habitat in which the flute part lives.

Edward Cowie, Cumbria, 2014.

*The Soft Complaining Flute (original version) for baroque flute and 6 sopranos is recorded on Signum Classics, SIGCD331 together with the composer's 'Gesangbuch', 'Lyrebird Motet' and 'Bell Bird Motet'.*

# The soft complaining flute

Version 2 for baroque flute and piano

2014

Edward Cowie (b.1943)

Baroque Flute

♩=94  
*flz.*  
*sfzmp* *f* *mp*

Piano

♩=94  
*mfpp* *mfpp* *mfpp* *mfpp*  
*Ped.* *Ped.*

6

Fl.

*f* *flz.*  
*sfzmp*

Pno.

*mfpp* *mfpp*  
*Ped.*

11

Fl.

*f* *mp* *p*

Pno.

*mfpp* *mfpp* *(pp)*  
*Ped.* *pp* *Ped.*

16 *flz.*

Fl. *(mf)* *sfzmp*

Pno. *mfpp* *mfpp* *pp*

*p* *mfpp* *mfpp* *(pp)*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

21

Fl. *f* *mp* *f*

Pno. *mfpp* *mp* *p*

*p* Ped. Ped.

26 *flz.*

Fl. *sfzmp* *f*

Pno. *mfpp* *5* Ped. Ped.

30

Fl. *f* *mp* *flz.* *sfzmp*

Pno. *mf* *Ped.*

34

Fl. *f* *mp*

Pno. *mfpp* *pp*

38

Fl. *f* *mf* *f* *flz.* *sfzmp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mfpp* *pp*

*5* *3* *6*

*Ped.*

43

Fl.

*f* *ff* *mf*

Pno.

Ped.

47

Fl.

*mp* *f* *flz.* *sfzmp*

Pno.

*mfpp*

51

Fl.

*f*

Pno.

*pp*



55

Fl. *f* *mp* *f* *flz.* *sfzmp*

Pno. *Red.* *mfpp*

60

Fl.

Pno. *(pp)* *Red.* *3*

65

Fl. *ff* *dim poco a poco* *(sim)* *mp*

Pno. *(pp)*

ecosonic modes

69

Fl.

Pno.

*f*

*mp*

*mfpp*

Ped.

73

Fl.

Pno.

(finger flutters)

*mf*

*pp*

*f*

*p*

Ped.

78

Fl.

Pno.

(finger flutters)

*mp*

*fp*

*pp*

*f*

*p*

*p*

82

Fl.

Pno.

*mf* 6 *p* 5

86

Fl.

Pno.

*mf* *mfp* 6 *mf* *mp*

Ped.

90

Fl.

Pno.

5 *p* *mfp* finger flutters

Ped.

94

Fl.

*f* *ff* *mf*

5 5

Pno.

*Ped.*

97

Fl.

*flz.* *sfzmp* *sfzmp*

Pno.

*pp* *pp*

3

100

Fl.

*f* *ff* *mp* *f*

Pno.

*mp* *Ped.*

5 5

105

Fl. *mf* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p*

109

Fl. *mfp* *f*

Pno. *mp* *mp* *p*

114

Fl. *mp* 7

Pno. *ppp* *ppp*

*Red.*

117

Fl.

Pno.

Ped.

120

Fl.

*ff*

Pno.

*p*

Ped.

123

Fl.

*dolce*

*p* ————— *p* ————— *f* *fmp*

finger-flutter

Pno.

*pp* *pp*

Ped.

126

Fl.

Pno.

*pp*

*mp*

*f*

*pp*

Red.

130

Fl.

Pno.

*f*

*ff*

*mp*

*mfp*

*pp*

Red.

133

Fl.

Pno.

*mfp*

*mf*

*pp*

Red.

136

Fl. *ff* *f* 5

Pno. *ppp*

140

Fl. *flz.* *mf* 3

Pno. *pp*

143

Fl. *flz.* *mf* *mp* 3

Pno. *ppp* *pp*



146

Fl. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Pno. *Red.* *pp*

149

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mfpp* *f*

*ecosonic 16+ key*

*gliss.* *gliss.*

Cadenza ad lib .

Pno.

152

Fl. *mf* *pp* *mfpp* *f*

*tremolo (varying speeds)*

*7* *5* *5*

Pno.

156

Fl. *pp* 5 5 *mfpp* *f* *p* rapid tonguing! (ecosonic slips) ♭ ♭ ♭ ♭ (♭)

Pno.

160

Fl. *mfpp* rapid tonguing (ecosonic 16+ key) *gliss.* *gliss.*

Pno.

164

Fl. (harm.) *p* **circa 15"** whilst playing note- random finger taps ♩=94 tempo primo

Pno. *pp* **circa 15"** ♩=94 tempo primo

168

Fl.

*mf*

*pp*

*p*

Pno.

*ped.*

172

Fl.

*pp*

*p*

*dolce et legato*

Pno.

*pp*

*p*

*ped.*

175

Fl.

Pno.

*3*

178

Fl.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 178-181. The Flute (Fl.) part consists of rests. The Piano (Pno.) part features a triplet in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

182

Fl.

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

5

Musical score for measures 182-184. The Flute (Fl.) part has melodic lines with dynamics *mp* and *p*. The Piano (Pno.) part has chords and a triplet.

185

Fl.

Pno.

finger trill (ecosonic 2)

*pp*

*f*

*mf*

5

Musical score for measures 185-188. The Flute (Fl.) part includes a finger trill (ecosonic 2) and melodic lines with dynamics *pp*, *f*, and *mf*. The Piano (Pno.) part has chords and a triplet.

189 *flz.*

Fl. *mfpp* *f*

Pno. *p*

Red. \_\_\_\_\_ ^

194 *flz*

Fl. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Red. \_\_\_\_\_ ^ Red. \_\_\_\_\_ ^

200

Fl. *f* *dim. poco a poco niente*

Pno. *ppp*

Red. \_\_\_\_\_ ^

X6 X4 X5







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