

Matt Geer

# Memento Mori

for trumpet

2023

# Programme note

*Memento Mori* directly addresses the ephemeral nature of limited time and invites listeners to be aware of individual moments. The complex rhythms and permutational arrays are a direct reminder of time's impermanence. Often, our realisation of our own morality can warp our perception of time, making moments seem longer or shorter depending on our emotional state. This work invites listeners to ponder the meaning or lack thereof in their own life, postulating upon an existential weight. It tries to capture the tension between the eternal now and the finite human lifespan, while the trumpet signifies a heraldic listening space. There are moments of false hope and death during the inclusions of silence, which serve as a poignant reminder of the end, reinforcing the *Memento Mori* theme. The sound and silence represent two aspects of consciousness: one being the stream-like nature of awareness and the other being punctuated, event-based perception of life's milestones, the full realisation of which brings us closer to understanding our own mortality. Finally, given that the narrative is within the listener's temporal consciousness rather than within the music itself, the work functions as a conceptual lens through which the listener constructs their own internal narrative, making each listener's experience unique but tied together by the theme of mortality and time.

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Memento Mori  
for trumpet

Duration: 12'30"

For Rebecca Toal

# Memento Mori

for trumpet (2023)

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Score in B $\flat$

Cyclic ♩ = 120

harmon stem out

The musical score is written for trumpet in B $\flat$  and is cyclic with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of nine staves of music, each with various time signatures and dynamic markings. The dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*). The score includes a "harmon stem out" instruction and a circled  $\phi$  symbol above the first staff.

Staff 1: *p*, *mp*, *mf*

Staff 2: (*mf*), *p*, *mp*, *mf*

Staff 3: *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*

Staff 4: *mp*, *p*

Staff 5: *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*

Staff 6: *mp*, *p*, *mf*, (*mf*)

Staff 7: *mp*, *p*

Staff 8: *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*

Staff 9: *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*

Subito ♩ = 100

The musical score consists of ten staves of music in treble clef. The piece begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo marking of 'Subito ♩ = 100'. The time signatures vary throughout the piece, including 2/4, 3/4, 5/8, 7/8, and 3/4. Dynamic markings are indicated by *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. Repeat signs with first and second endings are used to structure the piece. The overall mood is rhythmic and melodic, with frequent changes in time signature.

Subito ♩ = 80

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *(mf)*, *p*, *mp*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *p*, *mp*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 7: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *(mf)*, *mp*, *p*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 8: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*, *p*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Musical staff 9: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

Subito ♩ = 60

Musical staff 10: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Dynamics: *p*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*. Includes repeat signs and bar lines.

This page contains ten staves of musical notation, each featuring a single melodic line. The notation includes various time signatures such as 2/4, 3/4, 5/8, 7/8, and 3/2. Dynamic markings are used throughout, including *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs and beams. Some staves include repeat signs with first and second endings. The overall style is that of a classical or romantic-era melodic exercise or study.