

Instructions

for a bass in fifths

Stephen F. Lilly

Dedicated to the 150th Anniversary of Serge Koussevitzky's Birth

(2023)

Program Notes

Chanson triste was my first Koussevitzky—a rite of passage for contrabasses. My own initial offering championed the same sweeping romanticism compressed into a small form. I've since abandoned the romanticism but remain fascinated by the short succinct statement of musical interest.

Instructions for a Bass in Fifths

Stephen F. Lilly (*1976)

Fading in...

Play a fifth:

Perfect,

Open,

Drawn out by your bow, but this time, no wavering.

Vary Balance

...now, more root...

...now, rootless...

Vary Pressure

failing to catch;

dissipating into overtones.

—or—

Heavy,

Halting,

& Broken.

Vary Position

pinched/nasal

...then...

hollowed/breathy

Stop.