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# Shulamit

# RAN

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## Spirit

*for solo B $\flat$  Clarinet*



THEODORE  
**PRESSER**  
COMPANY

## *In memory of Laura Flax*

World premiere by Stephanie Key, clarinet  
February 5 & 6, 2018  
SOLI Ensemble, San Antonio, TX

### **Program note**

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SPIRIT was composed in memory of Laura Flax (1952-2017), the renowned New York-based clarinetist and my cherished friend. Our musical and personal association began in 1977 when Laura invited me to compose a solo clarinet work, *For an Actor: Monologue for Clarinet*, in memory of her mother, Hazel Flax, whom I had known.

After composing *For an Actor* for Laura I came back to the clarinet in many of my compositions over the years, sometimes as a lead instrument and at other times as an important voice. In all of my clarinet music Laura is present. The rich sound, blazing technique, the “brain and guts” that she brought to her playing, and her remarkable person, have inspired me in so many ways during the four decades of our friendship, and beyond.

I did not want SPIRIT to be about absence, though. I wanted the piece to exhibit a wider range of emotions, as well as capture at least a tiny glimpse of Laura’s brilliant spirit and spiritedness. Only in the work’s final stretch does the sense of “parting,” and of loss, take over.

Upon completing SPIRIT on October 21, 2017 I found myself compelled to add at the bottom of the score the words “To Laura, always in my heart,” as though in an effort to reach out, for a brief moment, and touch the unreachable.

—Shulamit Ran

### **For the performer**

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Accidentals carry through the bar and are not transferable at the octave. The above notwithstanding, many courtesy accidentals have been added.

The kind of tempo, dynamic, and expressive fluctuations considered acceptable in the performance of so-called traditional repertoire are to be applied to this music as well.

# Spirit

for solo B $\flat$  Clarinet

SHULAMIT RAN  
(2017)

Duration: c. 7'

**rubato** **poco rall.**

$\text{♩} = 80$

*mp* *ff* *f* *meno f* *p*

**In time**  $\text{♩} = 72$

*ff insistent* *p graceful* **poco rall.**  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$

**move**  $\text{♩} = 72$

*poco f* *più f* *insistent*

**poco rall.**

**a tempo**  $\text{♩} = 72$  **poco rall.**  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$

*molto* *pp* *p* *gently whispering*

**Flexible**

*poco* *mp with warmth, expansive* *mf*

**Resolute**  $\text{♩} = 76$

*f* *ff*

key click

ord. key trill

*mp* eccentric, unpredictable

*mf* *mp* *f*

tongue slap + ord.

*mf* *f* *p* *mf* *ten.* *mp*

**Slightly hold back** ♩ = c. 69

(3/8) (11/16) (3/8)

*poco f* *mp* slightly erratic *poco f* *f* with growing momentum and excitement

(5/8) Resolute *meno f* *più f* *ten* (4/8) *ff* very rhythmic

*p* *f*

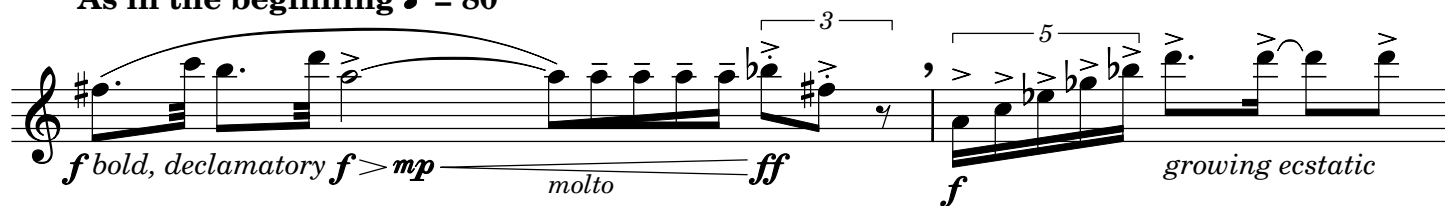
*mf* *f* *f* sempre

(2/8) 6

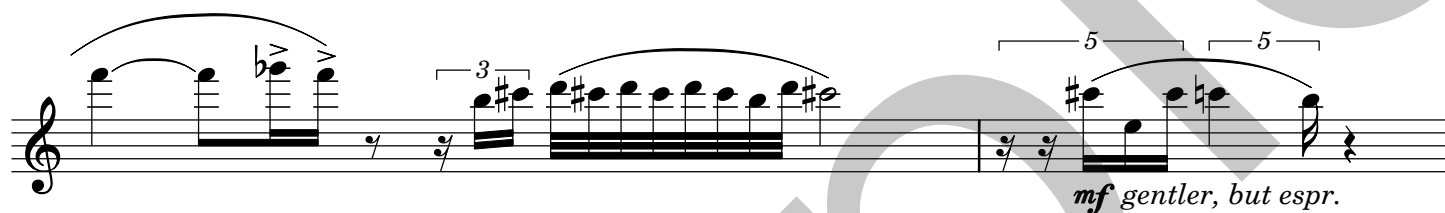
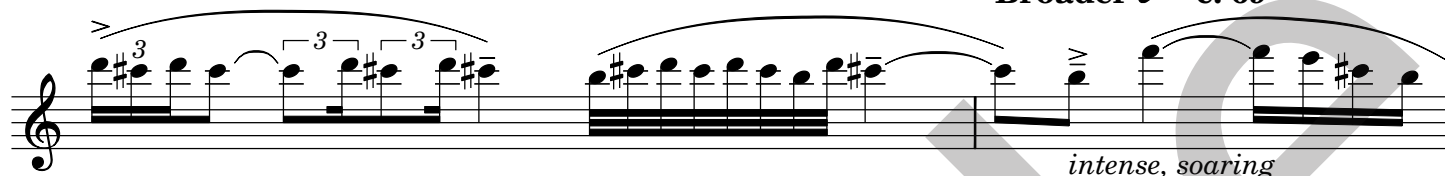
still determined *ten.*

*ferocious* *mf*

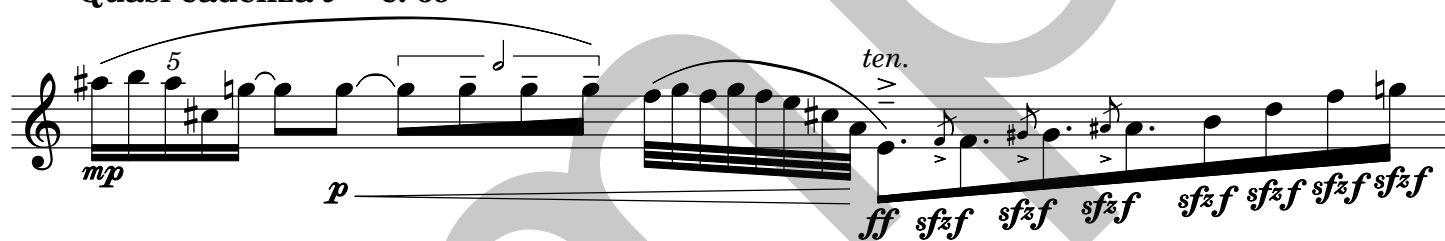
As in the beginning ♩ = 80



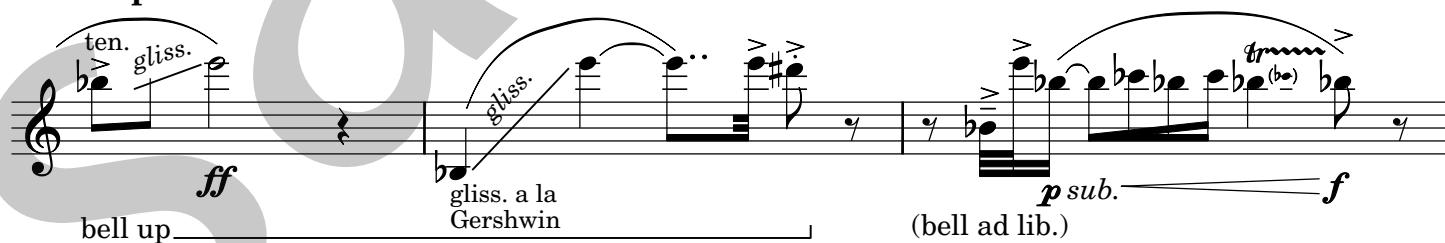
Broader ♩ = c. 69



Quasi cadenza ♩ = c. 69



Emphatic ♩ = 72



♩ = c. 69

