

Dysphagia

for solo bass clarinet

by James A. Fox

Performance Notes

Perform at written pitch throughout.

Dysphagia uses small stylised cells to create local 'swellings' through the use of a limited range of pitch and a controlled dynamic register. These elements are manipulated and controlled to create progressively more bloated cells, with the climax at bar 22.

There is an extramusical connection with healthy peristaltic movement of material along the oesophagus, and the hopefully infrequent interruptions experienced in this essential biological function. This provided the initial inspiration for the cells and the overall structure of *Dysphagia*.

Accent and Staccato

Aim for strong, well separated articulations when a slur is absent. This should provide a slightly more spasmodic episode from bar 29 to the finale.

Dynamic

Changes in dynamic register (including crescendo and diminuendo) have been notated with consideration given to the rhythm, and should be performed with a close relationship in order to focus the attention specifically to those areas.

Vibrato

No vibrato indications exist in the score, which should be followed throughout to restrict any fluctuations of pitch, focussing instead on the production tone, rhythm and articulation within the cell.