

Je est un autre

For Mezzo-soprano, Two Flutes and Piano

Tom Armitage

Je est un autre

By Tom Armitage

To a text by Arthur Rimbaud

For mezzo-soprano, two flutes and piano

Duration: c. 4'

Arthur Rimbaud said the words, '*Je est un autre*', meaning that the inner-self is something undefined and foreign.

In this piece—a setting of Rimbaud's poem *Antique*—the Classical image of beauty, expressed through the static imagery of the hermaphroditic faun, is twisted into a modernist figure of grotesqueness, as the creature comes to life.

Written, with gratitude, for the POW Ensemble, commissioned for EUROPrize Valletta, 2023.

Je est un autre

Arthur Rimbaud

Tom Armitage
June 2023

Flute I *liberamente* *mf < f* *fp*

Flute II *mp*

Mezzo-soprano
or Baritone

Piano *mf* *p*

Graceful; Dark
(♩=80)

5

Fl. I *sub. p* *pp*

Fl. II *p* *pp*

Voice *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*
Gra - cieux, Gra-cieux — fils de Pan!

Pno. *f* *mp*

10

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

Pno.

mp < > < > *p* *mp*

f

Au - tour de ton front cour - on-né

f

14

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

Pno.

f *p* *f* *p* *f*

f *p* *f*

mp *f* *più f*

de fleur - et-tes et de baies, tes yeux, tes yeux, des boul-espré - cieus-es, re-mu-ent.

pp cresc. *f* *p cresc.* *f*

17 **Intense; Menacing**

Fl. I *ff* (tr)

Fl. II *ff* (tr)

Voice *mp* *mf*
Tach-ées de li - es brun - es, tes jou - es se creus -

Intense; Menacing

Pno. *p*

21 **Growing in intensity...**

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice ent. Tes crocs lu - i -

Growing in intensity...

Pno. *cresc.* *ff* *fp cresc.*

10

23

Fl. I *mp* *mf* *f* **Delicately**

Fl. II *mp* *f*

Voice *ff*
sent. Ta poi - tri - ne res - sem -

Pno. *molto cresc.* *ff* *mp* **Delicately**

25

Fl. I *mp* *fp* *fp* *tr.*

Fl. II *mf* *fp* *fp* *tr.*

Voice *mp* *3* *3* *3*
ble'au - ne ci - tha - re, des tin - te - ments - cir - cu - lent dans tes bras

Pno. *ff*

28

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

Pno.

f *mf*

blonds. — Ton coeur bat dans ce ven - tre,

mf *p* *mp*

p *pp*

31

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

Pno.

Growing...

fp

dans ce ven - tre où dort, où

Growing... *f* *p*

Suddenly Soft

34

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

dort où dort le dou - ble - sex - e.

p

fp

pp

Suddenly Soft

Pno.

f

p

Intense; Menacing

38

Pno.

p

p

pp

p

mf

43

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

Pro-mè - ne-toi la nuit, Pro - mè-ne-toi la nuit, en mou - vant dou-ce-ment

p

f

f

3

p

mp

mf

f

3

p

Pno.

48

Fl. I *mf*

Fl. II *f* *pp* *f* (key clicks) 5 5

Voice *fp* *fp* *f*
cet - te cuis - - - se, Cet-te se-con-de cuis - se et cet - te

Pno. *mf* *pp*

52

Fl. I *mp*

Fl. II *p* *ppp*

Voice *sub. pp*
jam - be...

Pno. *mf*

55 **Slowly**

Fl. I

Fl. II

Voice

...et cet - te jam - be de gau - - - che.

Pno.

Slowly

ANTIQUE

Arthur Rimbaud

Gracieux fils de Pan! Autour de ton front couronné de fleurettes et de baies tes yeux, des boules précieuses, remuent.
Tachées de lies brunes, tes joues se creusent. Tes crocs luisent. Ta poitrine ressemble à une cithare, des tintements circulent dans tes bras blonds. Ton coeur bat dans ce ventre où dort le double sexe. Promène-toi la nuit, en mouvant doucement cette cuisse, cette seconde cuisse et cette jambe de gauche.

Graceful son of Pan! Around your forehead crowned with little flowers and laurel, your eyes, those precious balls, revolve.
Stained with wine dregs, your cheeks grow hollow. Your fangs gleam. Your chest is like a lyre, tinklings course through your blonde arms. Your heart beats in the belly where the double sex sleeps. Walk around at night, gently moving this thigh, this second thigh and this left leg.

(Translation by Rosanna Warren)

Je est un autre was commissioned by POW Ensemble and 'EuroPride Valletta 2023'.