## Adam Spry

Astra

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### Astra

Sonata for Upright Piano No. 1

June 2021 - June 2022

#### PERFORMANCE NOTES

Mvt. I should teeter between being played melodically and percussivally. The pivoting should not necessarily be sudden nor gradual, but be alligned with the sound world of the movement. Any 5/8 bar should be subdivided as crotchet dotted-crotchet. With any 2 notes with 2 accidentals, the first accidental affects the first note and the second accidental the second note, even if the two notes are of different rhythmic values.

the tremolos played in mvt. II should be as quiet as possible, only there as an effect rather than distinguishable notes. The melody in the 3rd and 4th staves should with its dynamics independant to the tremolos. The tremolo method of the low rumble should be all six notes played at the same time, rather than having a tremolo between notes. The notes in the third stave should be imagined as accents of the notes in the tremolo that cut over it, even the notes that aren't within the notes in the tremolo. The tremolo can temporarily stop playing at times where it is not possible to play alongside the notes in the third stave but it should be aimed to be played wherever possible. All 3 pedals of the upright piano (sustain, una corda and practice pedal) should be down with the exception of the sustain pedal where notated. On the final note with the resonance, half release the sustain pedal on the final chord and press it back down fully so that only mostly the overtones and resonance of the chord is playing. There should not be a break felt at this moment of the music.

rubato may be added in mvt III at the discretion of the performer, however, avoid these during passages where there are constant changes in meter. With any one bar time signature change, assume it is whatever the main meter of that section is with beats added or removed at the end.

#### PROGRAMME NOTES

Astra is a sonata for upright piano. I chose an upright over a grand piano for the different pedals; an upright piano has a practice pedal, which is not found on a grand. This pedal give a unique timbre which can be heard in the second movement and it gives it a unique sound world over the other two.

The title Astra has two meanings. It comes from the Word "Astral" without the "l" as the overall piece's sound world sounds very celestial. Also, Astra comes from "Astra Planeta" which were a group of five Gods in Greco-Roman mythology. The number five is very important in this piece and is used as the basis for a lot of the core ideas of each movement.

-Adam Spry

Duration:	ca. 9'
mvt. I Allegro con grazia:	ca. 2'
mvt. II Moderato pesante:	ca. 2'
mvt. III Andante quasi vivace:	

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