

Rook + Cello

by

Andrew Hugill



## **Rook + Cello**

This is one of a series of seven pieces entitled 'Spectrum Sounds' commissioned by the BBC in 2021. The pieces arise out of lockdown and draw upon my own listening as an autistic man with hearing impairments (severe loss, tinnitus, hyperacusis, diplacusis). The piece was written for the cellist Elisabeth Wiklander.

I cannot visit a rookery without hearing the sound of a cello.  
The rook has an iridescent purple plumage whose darkness is gothic.  
The sound of a minor sixth on the cello is also purple, to my ears,  
as is the note E and the Phrygian mode.

An influence on this piece is Erik Satie's Rose+Croix music.  
The title Rook+Cello echoes its titular formulation and the musical form resembles Satie's durational constructions. Was Satie autistic? Retrospective diagnosis of historical figures is a risky business, but there are indications that he had many autistic traits. He lived in a kind of self-imposed lockdown in his tiny apartment in Arcueil, to which nobody was ever admitted.

This piece may be performed with or without the rook samples.

Rook samples are used under licence from the BBC Sound Effects Library:  
Rookery, recorded by John Burton, 21st April 1981.  
Single Rook, unnamed sound recordist, date unknown.

# Rook + Cello

Andrew Hugill

Slow ♩ = c.. 52

The musical score consists of six staves of music, primarily in the bass clef. The time signatures change throughout: 5/4, 3/4, 6/4, 7/4, 9/4, 6/4, 5/4, and 2/4. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *f* (forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 3, 6, 5). The piece concludes with a final double bar line in 2/4 time.

*p* *pp*

*p* *pp*

*mp* 6

*pp* *p* 5

*pp* *p* *mp*

*p* *pp* *ppp*