

Ulysses

for Violin and Piano



Kirk O'Riordan

Ulysses (2011) for Violin and Piano

Ulysses was composed for violinist Eliezer Gutman and pianist Holly Roadfeldt-O’Riordan. The work is dedicated to them.

Novelist James Joyce became famous for using a writing technique called “stream of consciousness,” in which he attempted to replicate the intricate connections and references of the human mind. His Novel *Ulysses* is arguably the crowning achievement of this style.

My piece attempts to incorporate the stream of consciousness ideal by allowing a theme to do develop in a manner similar to the thoughts of Joyce’s characters. Unlike a Haydn-esque variation set, my seven short movements allow the theme to wander in a variety of different directions and explore different personalities. The movements are for the most part performed without pause.

- I. misterioso; freely, quasi-cadenza
- II. flowing, gracefully
- III. with abandon
- IV. languishing
- V. haunting
- VI. relentless
- VII. impulsive, without restraint

Duration: ca. 14 minutes