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In spite of the mere objectiveness of things

(for Symphony Orchestra)
IN SPITE OF THE MERE OBJECTIVENESS OF THINGS

EDWARD NESBIT

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Commissioned by Sound and Music
for the BBC Symphony Orchestra
as part of the Sound and Music Embedded scheme.

The first performance was given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Pierre-André Valade at Maida Vale Studios
on 24th March 2016.

ORCHESTRA

3 flutes
3 oboes (III = cor anglais)
3 clarinets in B♭ (III = bass clarinet in B♭)
3 bassoons (III = contrabassoon)
4 horns in F
3 trumpets in B♭
2 tenor trombones
1 bass trombone
1 tuba

percussion (3 players)
player 1: vibraphone, xylophone, snare drum, large tam-tam
player 2: marimba, triangle, suspended cymbal, small tam-tam
player 3: glockenspiel, bass drum, tubular bells, triangle
1 harp

strings (14.12.10.8.6 players)

Duration c. 12'
Score in C

PERFORMANCE NOTE

Grace notes should be played before the beat; mordents should be played on the beat.

PROGRAMME NOTE

In spite of the mere objectiveness of things takes its title from Wallace Stevens' poem 'Note on Moonlight', a nocturnal poem which explores the ability of moonlight to lend heightened meaning to the material world, 'in spite of the mere objectiveness of things'. The calm and extremely simple opening of the piece becomes gradually more florid and leads eventually to an extended fast section. The music leads to an extended climactic passage before subsiding into a coda characterised by the appearance of three solo celli.
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