

Janet Oates

2020

Laüstic

For soprano and soprano recorder

Duration 1 ½ minutes



Laüstic

Laüstic is based on the ending of a lay by Marie de France: two lovers find mutual enjoyment listening to a nightingale. The woman's husband kills the nightingale, and the woman realizes he knows of the affair. She wraps the bird's body in embroidered silk and sends it to her lover as a message. I imagined the woman's sadness as she contemplates the dead nightingale:

*The silk is heavier than his body.
The story woven thereon will endure
When his feathers are wind
And we are ash.*

The song was written during the Covid 19 lockdown period, as part of a socially-distanced concert project under the auspices of the vocal ensemble *Philomel*. It was recorded and then performed live by Felicity Hayward (soprano) and Janet Oates (recorder).

use fingering of
low D + half thumb:
unsupported pitch:
a wavering pppp thread of sound

Laüstic

Janet Oates

Soprano Recorder

6 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 42$ rit. .

Rec.

Sop. *languidly and freely* \checkmark \flat

The silk is hea - vi-er than his

10 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48: \text{ piu mosso}$

Rec.

Sop. \flat

bo - - - dy. the sto - ry wo - - - ven there

12 *gliss.* \flat *gliss.*

Rec.

Sop. *the two parts may be approximate in their timing and interaction* *trm* 2 \flat

on will en- dure when his fea - thers are wind

15 *drop to ppp unsupported pitch*

Rec. *gliss.* *gliss.*

Sop. *mp* *mp*

and we are a - shshshsh c. 80"