The Painted Bird

for solo harp

Cat Hope (2015)

for Catherine Ashley

The composer will prepare of box of ribbons for you. Contact the composer [cat@cathope.com] when you would like to prepare and perform the piece and a box of specially selected ribbons to you. Allow 3 weeks for the arrival of the ribbons.

In your request for the ribbons, you should state three of your favourite types of birds.

When the ribbons arrive, you should thread them through the strings of the harp according to the attached diagram. The ribbons will be numbered - 1to 10 - thread them so that the numbered tag end rests where the number is on the diagram. Some ribbons may have knots or things knotted into them - do not remove these, they are deliberately placed.

Thread the ribbons in and out (behind and infront) of each string following the diagram as closely as possible.

Pull the ribbons out of the harp, one after the other, at different rates from very slow to very fast and inbetween. Pull them out in the order of the numbers. In addition, some even or odd numbers may be pulled out simultaneously, one hand each. E.g. A plan may be 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11, 10.

This piece works best in a small environment, acoustically, with the audience surround the harp and harpist who should be standing. However, it can be amplified in a concert hall type situations.

The piece should take around 10 minutes.

September 2015.