

Multitasking

A tango for solo bass, narration and smartphone

Rosemary Ponnekanti

(walk on talking on phone,
pick up bass)

(Rept. as needed)

Double Bass

3 (finish call)

This is "Multitasking"!

D.B.

6

No, seriously. It's a piece called "Multitasking", in which I'm required to play some

D.B.

tricky music, read the text above the music, and interact with my friends as much as I can on a smartphone. #

D.B.

10

D.B.

The trouble is, even on an awesome instrument like the bass, you can't play many notes with a phone in

D.B.

Col Legno

your hand. *

D.B.

C.L.

L.H. knock

See - isn't that more interesting? And the other problem with a phone is that scientists tell us it

D.B.

Use smartphone: take selfie, post online, take a call, make a call. Try to explain briefly what you're doing.

If someone calls you, repeat first open-string phrase ad lib until call is done.

* Put the phone down, either in pocket or on table nearby, and use LH.

2

Multitasking
kind of takes your attention away from what you're meant to be doing. #

(rpt. as needed, ad lib)

24

D.B.

C.L.

27

* Like playing the bass.

D.B.

And communicating with the audience.

Although,

30

D.B.

it also allows you to communicate with them in fun ways. (# take prearranged call.)

33

D.B.

* I can also share the performance on social media,

36

D.B.

pizz.

so I can connect to my friends and family.

(Stop playing and wave) Hi, Mum!

39

D.B.

arco

So multitasking isn't all that bad during a performance. In fact, if anyone else wants to call me, feel free.

42

D.B.

knock

knock

C.L. 3

Only the conversation might not be that great. After all, I am multitasking. #

45

D.B.

(rpt. as needed, ad lib)

47

D.B.

pizz.

C.L. below

C.L. above

C.L. above (bridge) or below (bridge) Slap = L.H. slap strings + = L.H. pizz

* But you know, musical multitasking isn't exactly new. Mozart conducted an orchestra from the piano.

50

D.B.

Opera singers have to act, sing in another language, and even watch

53

D.B.

DJ-scratch, harm. *molto vib.*

the conductor.

When they feel like it. #

57

D.B.

60

D.B.

* You may even have heard of "Failing," a bass piece where the soloist has to

62

D.B.

talk and play at the same time. (pause) I know, crazy, right? (play)

65

D.B.

8va

8va But a phone? That's something new. #

And kind of heretical.

68

D.B.

3
C.L. below C.L. above

*After all, aren't you supposed to turn your phone OFF during a classical concert?

71

D.B.

8va

You know, in case the musicians see the glare and hurt themselves, or something.

74

D.B.

8va
pizz.

Multitasking

So this piece is a bit of an experiment. Can I play, talk, take selfies, post to Facebook –

78

D.B.

arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

81

D.B.

– and can you do the same? –

85

D.B.

and still really experience the music? (Hold up phone.) Call me, text me, ping me, and let me know. *

88

D.B.

Maybe we'll all feel way more connected at the end. Or maybe we won't be listening at all. #

92

D.B.

How can we tell? By me playing the section of music on the next page,

C.L. C.L. C.L.

95

D.B.

where there's no text and no multimedia. * Just the music. And we'll see how it makes us feel.

C.L.

(romantically)

99

D.B.

103

D.B.

arco pizz. arco

slap stamp

107

D.B.

L.H. knock C.L.

111 D.B.

114 D.B.

118 D.B.

122 D.B.

127 D.B.

131 D.B.

134 D.B.

137 D.B.

140 D.B.

Smile! (take audience photo and bow.)