

Crying Sky Over Butterfly Reef

For Vibraphone, Violin, and Viola



Crying Sky Over Butterfly Reef

There is a palpable beauty in the landscapes which are falling apart. The screaming remnant of a long-burned ocean or a long extinguished volcano or the vast vistas of empty silence which fill the voids of our collective woes with a certain, yet disquieted peace. Mountains cannabilized by the wind; violently torn apart like some prairie dog in a coyote feeding frenzy. Always frozen in a single moment in time, watching in a transitory eye the action beheld to us. For a living, microscopic moment, a deep dread in our existence reveals itself: anchored down by the weight of all the violence and turmoil that we wait upon. A solitary reminder of the unending aggression of Earthly processes, amongst unending vistas in a limited perspective. In a manner which cannot encapsulate the mass of history which created and will destroy it. There is a discomfort in being amongst monuments of history. There is a great discomfort in picturing an existed past where you did not exist for many many millennia. There is a great discomfort in the vastness of silence.

Instrumentation:

Vibraphone (medium-hard, soft mallets)

Violin Solo

Viola Solo

(Optional Soft Thunder Effect on hidden speakers [Starts at mm. 68])

(Audio of thunder used graciously from www.pixabay.com from user 'Pixabay')

Duration c.a. 5:10

Images on cover belong to the composer

*"Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen
objectively to the howl of a wolf" -- Aldo Leopold*

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1

Hazy and Veiled ♩ = 70

"Eternal Windchimes donging in the breeze"

Medium-Hard mallets

Vibraphone

1

f, ma non aggressivo *sim. etc.* *molto rubato, ma lentamente*

Red.

Violin

Viola

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

4

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

6

A

Desolately

(Dead silence)

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Vib. (Vibraphone), Vln. (Violin), and Vla. (Viola). The Vib. and Vln. staves are in 6/4 time and show a series of rests, indicating dead silence. The Vla. staff is in 3/4 time and shows a series of notes, including a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, with a wavy line indicating a tremolo. The notes are marked with 'x' and a sharp sign, suggesting a specific harmonic or false-harmonic. The score is annotated with the instruction: "Touch the harmonic only for a milisecond. A flimmer of the harmonic should audiate, or the sound of the false-harmonic should break the sustained sound. Spread out the notes more than notated, and keep the rhythm sporadic." The dynamic marking is *pp* (pianissimo) and the tempo/mood is "like crickets".

12

Vib.

pp

Red.

6

Vln.

pp

Vla.

16

Vib.

*Touch the harmonic only for a millisecond. A
flimmer of the harmonic should audiate, or the sound
of the false-harmonic should break the sustained sound.
Spread out the notes more than notated, and keep the rhythm sporadic.*

Vln.

Vla.

The image shows a musical score for measures 16-18. The Vibraphone (Vib.) staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It contains sparse notes with a bracketed '6' indicating a sixteenth-note rhythm. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vla.) staves are in treble and bass clefs respectively, both with a key signature of one flat. They feature sustained notes with wavy lines above them, indicating vibrato or a specific performance technique. A large bracket spans measures 16-18, with performance instructions in Italian. The instructions are: 'Touch the harmonic only for a millisecond. A flimmer of the harmonic should audiate, or the sound of the false-harmonic should break the sustained sound. Spread out the notes more than notated, and keep the rhythm sporadic.'

19 (Dead silence)

Vib. *Red.*

Vln. (Dead silence)

Vla. (Dead silence)

Distant and haunted flaut.

(1/4 F-Sharp Listen to the Vib.)

6 5

3 3

24

Vib.

Vln. *pp* *sul pont.* *More distant and more haunted flaut.*

Vla.

3 3

29 (Hear the resonance)

Vib. *f* *Red.*

Vln. *p* "Desert haze" norm.

Vla. *p* "Desert haze"

35

Vib. *The rhythms should be somewhat imprecise, yet still intense*

Red.

Vln.

Vla.

38

Vib. *(Hear the resonance)*

Vln.

Vla.

43

B

Vib. *Soft Mallets; faint attack*
Motor on

p

Red.

Vln.

Vla.

46

Vib. *(Dead silence)*

Vln. *(Dead silence)*

Vla. *(Dead silence)*

50

Vib. *(Dead silence)* *ppp*

Vln. *(Dead silence)*

Vla. *(Dead silence)*

54

Vib. *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

55 Motor off

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

poco espr.

5

5

61

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

molto niente

(Hold your hand on the bar to produce the overtone notated;
V bow simultaneously) V

3

3

3

67

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

V

V

V

73 C

Vib. (Dead silence)

Vln. (Dead silence) *con sord.* **p**

Vla. (Dead silence) *con sord.* **p**

77

Vib. (Dead silence) (slowly lift ped.)

Vln. *dim.* *molto sul pont.*

Vla. *dim.*

Start Thunder Sound Effect
Here until Coda Sign

82

Vib. *senza sord* **f** *Majestico*

Vln. *ppp* *senza sord*

Vla. *ppp*

False harmonics; touch any note that will only break the droning 'D'; microtones and pitches not otherwise notated.

84

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

(Stop Thunder Immediately!)

87

Vib.

Vln.

Vla.

suddenly off!

suddenly off!