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Sea Change

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# Sea Change

Tom Morrison  
2018

for string quartet

## Performance Notes



Arrows pointing to “sul. pont” or “norm.” indicate gradual movement to/from the bridge.  
Without an arrow, sul. pont or norm should happen subito.



A box with an line/arrow should be repeated until the end of the line/arrow.  
Rhythms within boxes do not need to be exact.

Microtones are all estimations; there are no exact hertz/cents differentiations.

## Program Notes

*Sea Change* was inspired by three images in Liza Ryan’s “Antartica” series. Ryan’s photos, taken in 2016 and then slightly altered for two years, “summon the terrible beauty of Antarctica,” as put by Patrick Rodgers of the Natural Resources Defense Council. The photos confront my own personal climate change anxieties and make my day-to-day world seem so banal. Ryan’s images provoke a certain awe from the juxtaposition of surface stillness and underlying force, which I tried to engage with in the music. The first movement is slow and sparse, setting up the surface placidness. The second movement is fast and aggressive, with a certain sense of anxiety and urgency. The third movement has surface motion but is stuck and unresolved.

The work was written for and premiered by the Aizrui Quartet in November of 2018.

# Sea Change

Tom Morrison

**I**  
♩ = 52

Violin I  
*pp*  
*mp* 3

Violin II  
*pp*  
*mp* 3

Viola

Cello

Sea Change (10/18/18)

2  
6

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*pp*

*ppp*

10

A

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ppp*

*ppp*

Sea Change (10/18/18)

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

20

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*n* *p* *ppp*

*ppp* *p*

Sea Change (10/18/18)

B

Musical score for measures 1-24, featuring four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-12, and the second system covers measures 13-24. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 2. Dynamics include *pp*, *mp*, and *ppp*. Trills and triplets are present in the Vln. I part, with an *8va* marking above the first measure. The Vln. II part features a *pp* dynamic and a *mp* dynamic. The Vla. part features a *pp* dynamic and a *mp* dynamic. The Vc. part features a *ppp* dynamic and a *mp* dynamic.

Musical score for measures 25-36, featuring four staccato staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 25-30, and the second system covers measures 31-36. The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp*. Trills and triplets are present in the Vln. I part, with an *8va* marking above the first measure. The Vln. II part features a *pp* dynamic. The Vla. part features a *pp* dynamic. The Vc. part features a *ppp* dynamic.

31 (8va)

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 31 and 32. The first violin part (Vln. I) features a melodic line with eighth-note triplets, starting on a high octave (8va) and marked *mp*. The second violin (Vln. II) plays a similar eighth-note pattern. The viola (Vla.) has a sustained chord with a fermata, marked *mp*. The cello (Vc.) plays a simple eighth-note accompaniment, also marked *mp*.

33 (8va)

Vln. I *mf* *p* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *mf* *p* *f*

Vc. *mf* *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 33 and 34. At measure 33, the first violin (Vln. I) is marked *mf*. At measure 34, the time signature changes to 3/4, and the first violin part is marked *p* and *f*. The second violin (Vln. II) also has *mf* and *f* markings. The viola (Vla.) and cello (Vc.) parts have corresponding *mf*, *p*, and *f* markings. The first violin part in measure 34 includes a triplet of eighth notes with a fermata.



6 (8<sup>va</sup>)

35

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mp* *ff* *f* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

3 3 3

C

15<sup>ma</sup>

41 (8<sup>va</sup>)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

15<sup>ma</sup>

at least 10"

*ppp*

# II

D ♩ = 128

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Vln. I <sup>55</sup> *f* sul pont.

Vln. II *f* sul pont.

Vla. *f* sul pont.

Vc. *f* sul pont.

Sea Change (10/18/18)

8

59

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

E

norm.

*p*

64

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

69 *f* sul pont.

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello parts for measures 69-73. All instruments play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and accents. The dynamic is *f* and the instruction is *sul pont.* with a long line above the staves.

74 *p* norm. **F** *f* sul pont.

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello parts for measures 74-77. Measure 74 has dynamics *p* and *norm.*. Measure 75 has dynamics *f* and a box containing **F**. Measures 76-77 have the instruction *sul pont.* with a long line above the staves.

78

norm. sul pont. norm. **G**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

83

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

**H** sul pont. norm. sul pont. norm. sul pont. norm. sul pont. *ff*

Vln. I

sul pont. norm. sul pont. norm. sul pont. *ff*

Vln. II

sul pont. norm. sul pont. norm. sul pont. *ff*

Vla.

sul pont. norm. sul pont. norm. sul pont. *ff*

Vc.

**I** norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f*

Vln. I

norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f*

Vln. II

*f* norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f*

Vla.

*f* norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f* norm. *f*

Vc.

Sea Change (10/18/18)

12

Vln. I <sup>100</sup>

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

J

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

113

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

*fff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 113 through 117. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measures 113-115 show a steady rhythmic pattern with some rests. In measure 116, the Viola and Violoncello parts are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. In measure 117, both parts reach fortissimo (*fff*). The strings play a consistent eighth-note accompaniment throughout.

118

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mf*

*mp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 118 through 122. It features the same four staves as the previous system. Measures 118-121 show a steady rhythmic pattern. In measure 118, the Violin I and Violoncello parts are marked with mezzo-forte (*mf*). In measure 122, the Violin I and Violoncello parts are marked with mezzo-piano (*mp*). The Viola and Violoncello parts also transition to *mp* in measure 122. The strings continue with their eighth-note accompaniment.



Sea Change (10/18/18)

14

K

124

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*p* *f*

130

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*pp* *mp* *mf*

136

L

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*pp*

*pp*

142

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

Sea Change (10/18/18)

16

M

Musical score for measures 149-158, marked 'M'. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. Measure 149 is marked with a box and the number 149. Dynamics include *pp* and *mp*. A box highlights a melodic phrase in the Vln. I staff starting at measure 150.

N

Musical score for measures 159-168, marked 'N'. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. Measure 159 is marked with a box and the number 159. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*.

166

Vln. I *mp* *p*

Vln. II *mp* *p*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

173

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla.

Vc.

O

Sea Change (10/18/18)

18

178

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

185

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

191

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 191 through 195. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The music is in a key with one flat and a 4/4 time signature. Measures 191-192 show a melodic line in the violins and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower strings. Measures 193-195 continue this texture with some melodic variation in the upper strings.

196

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 196 through 200. It features the same four staves as the previous system. Measures 196-197 feature prominent triplets in all four parts, with the instruction 'sul pont.' and a dynamic marking of 'P' in a box. Measures 198-200 show a change in texture, with the violins and violas playing a more active melodic line and the lower strings providing a steady accompaniment. Dynamic markings include 'ff' and 'pp'.

201

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp *fff*

pp *fff*

*fff*

*pp* *fff*

*fff*

*pp* *fff*

norm.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 201 through 206. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin I and II parts begin with a dynamic of *pp* and transition to *fff* by measure 202. The Viola part starts with *fff* and has a dynamic shift to *pp* and then *fff* in measure 204. The Violoncello part also starts with *fff* and has a dynamic shift to *pp* and then *fff* in measure 204. A 'norm.' instruction is placed below the Violoncello staff in measure 204. The music consists of rhythmic patterns with various accidentals and articulation marks.

207

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont.

norm. *pp* *fff*

sul pont. norm. *pp* *fff*

sul pont. norm. *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff*

sul pont. norm. *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 207 through 212. It features the same four staves as the previous system. Measures 207-208 are marked 'sul pont.' with arrows pointing to the right. In measure 209, the Violin I and II parts are marked 'norm.' and *pp*, while the Viola and Violoncello parts are marked 'norm.' and *pp*. In measure 210, all parts transition to *fff*. In measure 211, the Violoncello part has a dynamic shift to *pp* and then *fff*. In measure 212, the Violoncello part has a dynamic shift to *pp* and then *fff*. The music continues with rhythmic patterns and articulation marks.

212

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

8va

(8va) ---

216

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Q no vibrato

pp fff

no vibrato

pp fff

pp fff

pp fff

pp fff

pp fff



222

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *f* *pp*

*pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *f* *pp*

*pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *f* *pp*

*pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *f* *pp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 222 through 225. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The music is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 222-225 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, often beamed together. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo), *fff* (fortississimo), and *f* (forte). There are also some rests and fermatas. The tempo or mood is indicated by the 'vibrato' marking above the first measure of the second system.

226

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*ff* *pp* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

vibrato

vibrato

vibrato

*fff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 226 through 229. It features the same four staves as the previous system. Measures 226-229 show a continuation of the rhythmic pattern, with some measures containing longer note values like half notes and whole notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo), *pp* (pianissimo), and *fff* (fortississimo). The 'vibrato' marking is present above the first measure of the second system, and below the first measure of the third system. There are also some rests and fermatas. The tempo or mood is indicated by the 'vibrato' marking above the first measure of the second system.

231

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*p*

236

R

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

(attacca)

# III

242 ♩=52

The musical score consists of four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The piece is in 3/4 time and begins at measure 242 with a tempo marking of ♩=52. The first measure (242) features a *ppp* dynamic in Vln. I, which plays a whole note chord of G4, A4, B4, and C5. Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. play a melodic line of G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure (243) has a 3/4 time signature and shows Vln. I playing a whole note chord of G4, A4, B4, and C5, while the other instruments are silent. The third measure (244) is in 4/4 time and features Vln. I with a *pp* dynamic, Vln. II with a *pp* dynamic, Vla. with a *pp* dynamic, and Vc. with a *pp* dynamic. All instruments play a melodic line of G4, A4, B4, and C5. The fourth measure (245) is in 3/4 time and features Vln. I with a *ppp* dynamic, Vln. II with a *ppp* dynamic, Vla. with a *pp* dynamic, and Vc. with a *pp* dynamic. All instruments play a whole note chord of G4, A4, B4, and C5. The piece concludes with a *n* (ritardando) marking in the final measure.

245

Vln. I *p* *pp* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *pp* *mp*

Vla. *pp* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *pp* *mf*

250

Vln. I *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *f* *n*

Vc. *p* *f*

**S**

Repeat this box.  
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher  
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,  
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

Vln. I

*mf* *p*

Repeat this box.  
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher  
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,  
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

Vln. II

*n* *pp* *mf* *p*

Vla.

*ppp* *p* *mf*

Repeat this box.  
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher  
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,  
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

Vc.

*n* *ppp* *p*

The musical score is divided into four measures. The first measure contains a box labeled 'S' and a dynamic marking 'n'. The second measure contains a box with performance instructions and dynamic markings 'pp' and 'p'. The third measure contains a box with performance instructions and dynamic markings 'mf' and 'p'. The fourth measure contains a box with performance instructions and a dynamic marking 'mf'. The Vln. I part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Vln. II part consists of a series of chords and eighth-note patterns. The Vla. part consists of a series of chords. The Vc. part consists of a series of chords and eighth-note patterns.

259

Vln. I *mp* *p*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp* *p*

Vc. *pp*

Repeat this box.  
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher  
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,  
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

262

Vln. I *pp* senza microtones *p* *pp*

Vln. II senza microtones *p* *pp*

Vla. senza microtones

Vc. senza microtones *p* *pp*

Sea Change (10/18/18)

28

266

gloss. exponentially to top of g string.

gloss. exponentially to top of g string.

gloss. exponentially to top of g string.

gloss. exponentially to top of a string.

sul pont

sul pont

sul pont

sul pont

*n*

*n*

*n*

*n*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 28, is titled "Sea Change (10/18/18)". It features four staves: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score begins at measure 266. Each staff contains musical notation with various notes and rests. Above each staff, there are performance instructions: "gloss. exponentially to top of g string." for Vln. I, Vln. II, and Vla.; and "gloss. exponentially to top of a string." for Vc. Arched lines above the notes indicate phrasing. The instruction "sul pont" is written above the staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. at the end of the section. A dynamic marking of *n* (piano) is placed at the end of each staff. The notation includes slurs, accents, and specific note values.