

UCLA

Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Noctuary

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2hq3q2q5>

Author

Schimmel, Carl

Publication Date

2020

NOCTUARY

FOR TWO STRING QUARTETS

CARL SCHIMMEL

COMPOSED 2014

COMMISSIONED BY THE CIOMPI QUARTET

NOCTUARY

FOR TWO STRING QUARTETS

COMMISSIONED BY THE CIOMPI QUARTET

CARL SCHIMMEL

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- For simplicity and ease of notation, all natural harmonics (including octave harmonics) are indicated as a diamond notehead at the fingered pitch.
- Slashed beams indicate that the beamed notes should be played as fast, or nearly as fast, as possible.
- Gestures in box notation should be repeated until the end of the arrow which follows. Note that the gesture may or may not be slurred. After m. 187 (“Just before the dawn”) all notes in boxed notation, including the harmonic glissandi, are slurred.

PROGRAM NOTES

For some time now, I have been interested in exploring some variations on composer Henri Dutilleux’s ideas (borrowed from Marcel Proust) about the concept of memory as applied to music. How is a musical idea the same or not the same as, related or not related to, another musical idea, remembered from earlier in the piece? And, in a less narrow – and more personal – sense, to what extent do musical ideas from my own past compositions re-emerge and manifest themselves in my new compositions? This latter question pertains essentially to style, and it also is relevant to Dutilleux’s own approach to composition, which often relied upon the reuse of materials. Dutilleux’s masterful string quartet *Ainsi la nuit* (“*Thus the night*”), constructed primarily from a set of ideas introduced at the opening of the piece, is an excellent example of a composition in which change takes place via development of a small number of ideas – and their identities are clarified through variation. It is because of *Ainsi la nuit* that I was inspired to choose the title *Noctuary* for this piece – a “noctuary” is a record of what passes in the night. In this work, I drew upon my own stylistic markers, my own “compositional memory,” and developed them spontaneously, rather than planning out the work in detail as is my usual practice. In composing in a way that is less structured, and yet more clearly rooted in aspects of my personal musical style, in *Noctuary* I have attempted to more deeply probe my own musical subconscious. *Noctuary* was commissioned by the Ciompi Quartet, for first performance by the Ciompi Quartet and Amernet String Quartet.

CARL SCHIMMEL

COMMISSIONED BY THE CIOMPI QUARTET

Violin I and Violin II score, measures 11-15. The score includes dynamics (mf, p, pp, ppp), articulation (accents), and performance instructions (cantabile, this passage like a cadenza). A rehearsal mark 'A' is present at measure 14.

Violin I and Violin II score, measures 17-24. The score includes dynamic markings (p, pp, fff, mp), articulation (accelerando), and specific fingerings (sul G & D, sul D & A, sul C & G). A boxed section in measure 23 highlights a specific melodic phrase in Violin I.

NOCTUARY

3

26

I

5

3

3

begin legato, shift to separate bows

fff

II

mp

p

f

begin legato, shift to separate bows

pp

begin legato, shift to separate bows

fff

A conclamation (♩ = ca. 144)

molto ritard.

28

I

fff

fff

n

A conclamation (♩ = ca. 144)

molto ritard.

II

fff

fff

fff

4
C Melancholic (Half Tempo; ♩ = ca. 72)

NOCTUARY

I

Handwritten musical score for Part I. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The Treble staff begins with a forte (**n**) dynamic, followed by a piano (**ppp**) section. The Bass staff also has a **ppp** section. The lower Treble staff contains two boxes, each with the fingering IV, III, II. The first box is labeled **ppp** and the second is labeled **ppp** play slowly, randomly, any order. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

C Melancholic (Half Tempo; ♩ = ca. 72)
poco sul tasto

II

Handwritten musical score for Part II. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The Treble staff begins with a piano (**pp**) dynamic, followed by a piano (**pp**) section. The Bass staff also has a **ppp** section. The lower Treble staff contains a box with the fingering IV, III, II. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

I

Handwritten musical score for Part I of the second system. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The Treble staff begins with a forte (**n**) dynamic, followed by a piano (**p**) section, then a piano (**pp**) section, and finally a piano (**ppp**) section. The Bass staff also has a **ppp** section. The lower Treble staff contains a box with the fingering IV, III, II. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

II

Handwritten musical score for Part II of the second system. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The Treble staff begins with a forte (**n**) dynamic, followed by a piano (**p**) section, then a piano (**pp**) section, and finally a piano (**ppp**) section. The Bass staff also has a **ppp** section. The lower Treble staff contains a box with the fingering IV, III, II. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

♩ = ca. 60

D Quickenings (Twice as Fast; ♩ = ca. 120)

49

I

pp n pp pizz. con sord. arco p

pp n pp pizz. con sord. arco sul pont. ord. p

pp n pp con sord. arco sul pont. mf p ord. p

pp mf > pp p

♩ = ca. 60

D Quickenings (Twice as Fast; ♩ = ca. 120)

II

pizz. con sord. arco p

pp n pp pizz. con sord. arco p

pp n pp pizz. con sord. arco sul pont. ord. p

pp n pp con sord. arco sul pont. mf p p

57

I

mf > p sul pont. ord. p < mf > p > p > pp

mf > p sul pont. p < mf p p < mf > p > p > pp

mf > p pp < mf > pp p < mf > p > p > pp

mf > p p < mf > p > p > pp

II

mf > p sul pont. ord. p < mf > p > p > pp

mf > p sul pont. p < mf p p < mf > p > p > pp

mf > p pp < mf > pp p < mf > p > p > pp

mf > p p < mf > p > p > pp

NOCTUARY

allargando

E Agitated (♩ = ca. 92)

64

I

senza sord. sul pont. *mf f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

senza sord. sul pont. *p* *f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

senza sord. sul pont. *pp* *f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

allargando

II

senza sord. sul pont. *f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

senza sord. sul pont. *mf f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

senza sord. sul pont. *mf f* *f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

pp *f* *f dolce* *mp* *mf p*

molto accelerando *a tempo* *molto accelerando* *a tempo* *accelerando*

70

I

ff *f dolce* *mf* *ff ppp*

ppp *ff* *ff ppp*

molto accelerando *a tempo* *molto accelerando* *a tempo* *accelerando*

II

f *ppp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *ppp*

f *ppp* *ff* *ppp*

NOCTUARY

7

a tempo *poco accel.* *a tempo (or slower)* *accelerando*

I

76

fff *fp* *fff* *mp* *f* *p* *fff*

II

a tempo *poco accel.* *a tempo (or slower)* *accelerando*

fff *p* *mf* *f* *>mf* *fff*

fff *fp* *fff* *fff* *fp* *fff*

fff *fff* *fff* *fff*

[F] Paroxysmal (♩ = ca. 120)

accelerando

I

f

[F] Paroxysmal (♩ = ca. 120)

accelerando

II

f *f* *f* *ff*

83

I

II

ff *fff*

Berserk (♩ = ca. 144)

85

I

II

ff *fff*

Berserk (♩ = ca. 144) *ff*

pizz. *arco* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

9

I

I

II

10

G Moonstruck ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 132$)

NOCTUARY

ritardando

I

Part I of the 'Moonstruck' section. It consists of four staves in 4/4 time. The music features long, flowing melodic lines with many ties across measures, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 132$ and the performance instruction is *ritardando*.

G Moonstruck ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 132$)*ritardando*

repeated patterns should not slow down

II

Part II of the 'Moonstruck' section. It consists of four staves in 4/4 time. The top two staves (treble clef) feature rapid sixteenth-note patterns, some of which are boxed and labeled with the instruction 'repeated patterns should not slow down'. The bottom two staves (bass clef) provide a harmonic accompaniment with sustained chords and some melodic movement. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 132$ and the performance instruction is *ritardando*.

Ighescent ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$)*accelerando*

I

Part I of the 'Ighescent' section. It consists of four staves in 6/4 time. The music features a variety of dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). There are also triplet markings (3) over groups of notes. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$ and the performance instruction is *accelerando*.

Ighescent ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$)*accelerando*

II

Part II of the 'Ighescent' section. It consists of four staves in 6/4 time. The music features a variety of dynamic markings: *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). There are also triplet markings (3) over groups of notes. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$ and the performance instruction is *accelerando*. Some repeated patterns are boxed and labeled with the instruction 'repeated patterns should not slow down'.

NOCTUARY

11

H Evantion (♩ = ca. 120)
ritardando

A cloak, falling (♩ = ca. 92)
like a cadenza (follow Quartet I Violin I)

I

100

fff *mf* *p*

fff *ppp* *mp* *ppp* arco sul D

fff *ppp* arco

H Evantion (♩ = ca. 120)
ritardando

A cloak, falling (♩ = ca. 92)
like a cadenza (follow Quartet I Violin I)

II

fff *n* *p* *n* *ppp*

fff sul pont. *ppp* *mf* *n* *ppp* ord. sul A

fff *ppp*

I

106

p *ppp* *pp*

sul G

poco accel. *poco rit.* **I** *a tempo*

II

ppp *pp*

poco accel. *poco rit.* **I** *a tempo*

Violin I

116

(IV, III, II, I, II, III)

avoid bow changes
gesture should not be too rapid

p → pp

(IV, III, II, I, III)

avoid bow changes
gesture should not be too rapid

p → n

(IV, III, II, I, II, III)

avoid bow changes
gesture should not be too rapid

p → pp

J

Violin II

(IV, III, II, I, II, III)

avoid bow changes
gesture should not be too rapid

p → pp

(IV, III, II, I, II, III)

avoid bow changes
gesture should not be too rapid

p → pp

127

(IV, III, II, I, II, III)

d + j

(IV, III, II, I, II, III)

d + j

(gradually slow rate of change)

sul C & G

(gradually slow rate of change)

136

(gradually slow rate of change)

sul A & E

K

IV III II I

play any of these 12 harmonics in any order, relatively slowly (gradually slow rate of change)

(IV, III, II, I)

play any of these 4 harmonics in any order, relatively slowly (gradually slow rate of change)

sul D & A

pp

K

IV III II I

play any of these 12 harmonics in any order, relatively slowly

(gradually slow rate of change)

n p

I

II

145

sul D & A

ppp

sul C

sul C & G

ppp

mf

ppp

mf

n

p

mf

I

II

L Emerging, gathering (♩ = ca. 120)

I

II

I

II

NOCTUARY

[illegible]

NOCTUARY

17

183

ritardando

I

poco sul pont. *f* *ff* *fff* ord. 3

poco sul pont. *f* *ff* *fff* ord. 3

II

poco sul pont. *f* *ff* *fff* ord. 3

poco sul pont. *f* *ff* *fff* ord. 3

ritardando

Just before the dawn ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

186

I

Just before the dawn ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

glissando here to 3 pitches

sul A 15^{ma} (glissando)

II

Just before the dawn ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

mf *f*

mf

mf *f*

sul

19