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...and nothing remains the same.

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for

Flute, viola & 'cello

John Newell

ABIERTO MUSIC

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This world of ours
To what shall I compare it?
Put to sea in the morning,
A boat which rowed away
And left no track.

- Sami Mansei (early 8th century). Translation by the poet Kenneth Rexroth (*One Hundred More Poems from the Japanese*)

This short work is an essay on change and the ephemeral nature of our world. The fundamental truth that change is constant, is one that poets and thinkers have wrestled with for centuries. Think: even the small details and rituals of life are never quite the same from day to day. Each brief moment, each passing day, is but a prelude to the next.

Composed for the ensemble Eight Strings & a Whistle: Suzanne Gilcrest (flute), Ina Litera (vlna), and Matthew Goeke ('cello). They first performed the work in 2013 at the Machias Bay Chamber Concerts in Downeast Maine.

The opening unison note and apparently static chords feature the "white" sounds of string harmonics and non-vibrato flute. These evolve into individual instrumental lines, gradually becoming more expressive and distinct. The instruments take turns breaking away into their own short solo cadenzas, leading to a section of counterpoint of instrumental gestures. The work ends as the instrumental lines dissolve into fleeting, vaporous scale passages.

John Newell

Composer John Newell was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. His earliest musical training was in piano; he attended Duke University, pursuing studies in composition, piano and conducting. John received an M.F.A. in composition and performance from California Institute of the Arts and completed his formal training at the State University of New York at Buffalo. There he studied with Morton Feldman as recipient of the first Edgard Varèse Fellowship in composition, and earned his Ph.D. in 1979.

Having always pursued an independent creative path, John's objective is to create works that arise from his personal journey and response to the world. He is equally at home composing for vocal ensembles, chamber groups and orchestra. His works have been noted for their clarity, originality and expressive power.

John has received commissions from a variety of professional and amateur ensembles. He has composed for groups such as the Creative Associates of Buffalo New York, Atlantic Sinfonietta, Eight Strings & a Whistle, Bowery Ensemble, Monday Evening Concerts of Los Angeles, Enid Symphony Orchestra and Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra. His work has received support from the American Music Center, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Meet the Composer. John's works are self-published through Abierto Music and he is a member of Broadcast Music Inc. His web site is www.johnnewellmusic.com

An accomplished pianist, conductor and teacher, John lives with his wife Linda in Eastport, Maine. He serves on the faculty of the *SummerKeys* music program and is founding director of the choral ensemble *Quoddy Voices*.

For Eight Strings & a Whistle
...and nothing remains the same.

John Newell

♩ = 52 *Calm and still*

Flute *non-vibrato*
pp sempre

Viola *sul D*
pp sempre

'Cello *sul A*
pp sempre

sul G

sul D

5

sul D sul G

sul D sul C

sul A sul D sul A sul D sul D sul G

10

pp

sul G

non-vibrato

pp

sul D

non-vibrato

pp

2

15

$\text{♩} = 60$
con vibrato
p poco espressivo

con vibrato
p poco espressivo

con vibrato
p poco espressivo

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 15 through 19. It consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in treble clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The time signatures are 3/4, 4/4, 6/4, and 5/4. The music features a melodic line with various intervals and accidentals, including a flat and a sharp. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. Performance instructions include 'con vibrato' and 'p poco espressivo'.

20

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 20 through 24. It consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in treble clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The time signatures are 6/4, 4/4, and 5/4. The music continues the melodic development with various intervals and accidentals.

25

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 25 through 29. It consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in treble clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The time signatures are 6/4, 4/4, and 6/4. The music continues with a steady melodic flow.

30

accelerando poco a poco

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of music, measures 30 through 34. It consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in treble clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The time signatures are 4/4, 6/4, and 4/4. The music concludes with a melodic line that is marked 'accelerando poco a poco'.

34

f

37

ff

♩ = 76

40

ff

molto accel.

43

ff

pp

pp

pizz.

4
46

Musical score for measures 46-48. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents.

49 *growing and pushing ahead, little by little*

Musical score for measures 49-51. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 5/4. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents. The word "arco" is written above the bass staff in measure 51.

52

Musical score for measures 52-53. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents. Triplet markings (3) are present in measures 52 and 53.

54

Musical score for measures 54-56. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents. Triplet markings (3) are present in measures 54 and 55. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is written below the staves in measures 54 and 55.

♩ = 120

56

ff

ff

ff \rightarrow p

(♩=♩)

60

♩ = 84

ff \rightarrow p

ffp

p

sul D

p

64

f

p

68

♩ = 92

f \rightarrow p

pizz.

p

mp

6
72

p non espressivo

mf *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6 through 72. It features three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The Treble staff begins with a melodic line in 4/4 time, marked *p non espressivo*. The Alto staff provides harmonic support with chords and eighth notes. The Bass staff starts with a *mf* accompaniment, then transitions to *p* with a triplet of eighth notes. The system concludes with a dynamic decrescendo.

75

mf *mp*

(brush stroke)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 75 through 80. The Treble staff continues the melodic line. The Alto staff features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 75. The Bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 75, followed by a *brush stroke* in measure 80. Dynamics range from *mf* to *mp*.

78

mp *p leggiero sempre*

arco

Detailed description: This system contains measures 78 through 80. The Treble staff has a melodic line with a *p leggiero sempre* instruction. The Alto staff is marked *arco* and *mp*. The Bass staff continues with a rhythmic accompaniment. The system ends with a dynamic decrescendo.

81

mf *p* *mf espressivo*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 81 through 84. The Treble staff features a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The Alto staff has a *mf* accompaniment. The Bass staff continues with a *mf* accompaniment. The system concludes with a dynamic decrescendo and the instruction *mf espressivo*.

83

Musical score for measures 83-84. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. Measure 83 features a treble staff with a melodic line of eighth notes, an alto staff with a similar line, and a bass staff with a line of eighth notes. Measure 84 continues the melodic development. A dynamic marking *l.v.* is present at the end of the system.

85

Musical score for measures 85-86. The system consists of three staves. Measure 85 has a treble staff with a melodic line, an alto staff with a similar line, and a bass staff with a line of eighth notes. Measure 86 continues the melodic development. A dynamic marking *mp* is present in the middle of the system.

87

Musical score for measures 87-89. The system consists of three staves. Measure 87 has a treble staff with a melodic line, an alto staff with a similar line, and a bass staff with a line of eighth notes. Measure 88 continues the melodic development. Measure 89 continues the melodic development. Dynamic markings *p*, *mp*, and *p leggiero* are present in the system.

90

Musical score for measures 90-92. The system consists of three staves. Measure 90 has a treble staff with a melodic line, an alto staff with a similar line, and a bass staff with a line of eighth notes. Measure 91 continues the melodic development. Measure 92 continues the melodic development. Dynamic markings *p leggiero* are present in the system.

93

Musical score for measures 93-95. The score is in 5/4 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 93 features a melodic line in the treble with eighth notes and a bass line with eighth notes. Measure 94 continues the melodic development. Measure 95 concludes the phrase with a final chord.

96

poco accel.

$\text{♩} = 104$

Musical score for measures 96-99. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. Measure 96 begins with a melodic line in the treble and a bass line. Measure 97 continues the melodic line. Measure 98 features a melodic line in the treble and a bass line. Measure 99 concludes the phrase with a final chord. The dynamic marking *pp sempre* is present in the bass line of measures 98 and 99.

100

pp sempre

Musical score for measures 100-101. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. Measure 100 features a melodic line in the treble and a bass line. Measure 101 continues the melodic line. The dynamic marking *pp sempre* is present in the bass line of measure 100.

102

Musical score for measures 102-103. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. Measure 102 features a melodic line in the treble and a bass line. Measure 103 continues the melodic line. The dynamic marking *pp sempre* is present in the bass line of measure 102.

104

Musical score for measures 104-105. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and some rests. A large slur covers the entire system.

106

Musical score for measures 106-107. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and some rests. A large slur covers the entire system. The dynamic marking *pp sempre* is present in both the Treble and Bass staves.

108

Musical score for measures 108-109. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and some rests. A large slur covers the entire system. The dynamic marking *pp sempre* is present in the Alto staff, and *non cresc.* is present in both the Treble and Bass staves.

110

Musical score for measures 110-111. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and some rests. A large slur covers the entire system. The dynamic marking *non cresc.* is present in the Alto staff, and *simile* is present in the Treble and Bass staves.

112

Musical score for measures 112-113. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and slurs. Fingerings of 5 are indicated in several places. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

114

Musical score for measures 114-116. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Treble, and Treble. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and slurs. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamic marking *pp sempre* is present on each staff. Time signatures of 2/4 and 4/4 are used.

117

Musical score for measures 117-119. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Treble, and Treble. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and slurs. Fingerings of 5 are indicated. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

John Newell

Selected Solo and Chamber Works

Fantasy viola, 'cello, piano

In Autumn violin, piano

...and nothing remains the same. flute, viola, 'cello

Three Preludes flute

A Day's Journey string quartet

Variations on Amazing Grace piano

Sequoia Quintet flute / piccolo, clarinet, oboe, horn, bassoon

Sky Music flute, clarinet, harp

Companions II piano

Song of Compassion 2 violas, keyboard, percussion

Rhapsody horn, piano

Lavender Axes flute / picc, clarinet, oboe / eh, bassoon, percussion, piano

Rondos Eb clarinet, trumpet, trombone, tuba, percussion

Knossos piano

Heterophony alto voices, violin, viola, english horn

Text soprano, violin, flute, clarinet, guitar, percussion

Image, Song, Vision flute, clarinet, violin, 'cello

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