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Title

Varium caeli

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Varium cæli

for string orchestra

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

The piece is scored for string orchestra, minimum 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 in size

S.P. sul ponticello

M.S.P. molto sul ponticello

S.T. sul tasto

ord. ordinario

→ indicates gradual transformation from one bow position to the next

PROGRAM NOTES

Varium cæli could be translated as “changeable weather,” “changing sky,” or even “different air.” I sketched out the plan for the piece over a weekend with friends in Vermont during which the weather rapidly oscillated between warm and sunny and cool and stormy. We laughed that this is typical New England... but even for New England, it was unusually fickle and unpredictable. Though not fit weather for a hike or a swim, it was great weather for staying in and composing.

The various meanings of the Latin seemed appropriate: “different air” was fitting as I wrote *Varium cæli* a mere three weeks before moving from Boston, where I’ve lived for many years, to Chicago, to start a new life. “Changing sky” is literally the experience of that Vermont weekend, and “changeable weather” reflects my preoccupation with climate change while writing the piece. When I received a commission from ROCO, I was told that the theme of the concert on which the piece would premiere is “Time for Hope.” My hope springs from the actions I take to bring about the changes I want to see in the world. Hope without action is not hope at all; it is complacency. With this in mind, I’ve decided to donate 20% of my commission fee to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

www.nrdc.org

Varium cæli

Commissioned and world premiered by ROCO

$\text{♩} = 96$

poco accel. *a tempo*

Violin I-1 *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Violin I-2 *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Violin I-3 *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin I-4 *mf* *f* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin I-5 *mf* *f* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin I-6 *mf* *f* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin II-1 *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin II-2 *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin II-3 *f* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin II-4 *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Violin II-5 *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *sub p*

Viola 1 *f* *sfz*

Viola 2 *f* *sfz*

Viola 3 *f* *p* *sfz*

Viola 4 *f* *p* *sfz*

Cello *f* *mf* *sub p*

Double Bass 1,2 *f* *p*

S.P. M.S.P. ord. sub p

II

pizz. arco

S.P. III

6

Vln. I-1 *f* *ord.* *mp* *pp*

Vln. I-2 *f* *mp* *ppp*

Vln. I-3 *f* *ord.* *mp* *pp*

Vln. I-4 *f* *mp* *ppp*

Vln. I-5 *f* *ord.* *mp* *pp*

Vln. I-6 *f* *mp* *ppp*

6

Vln. II-1 *f* *ord.* *mp* *pp*

Vln. II-2 *f* *mp* *pp*

Vln. II-3 *f* *ord.* *mp* *pp*

Vln. II-4 *f* *mp* *pp*

Vln. II-5 *f* *mp* *pp*

6

Vla. *ord.* *mp* *mf*

6

Vc. *f* *mp* *pp* *mf*

6

D.B. *pizz.* *mf*

12

Vln. I-1 *mf*

Vln. I-2 *mf*

Vln. I-3 *mp*

Vln. I-4 *mp*

Vln. I-5 *pizz.* *f* *mp* *arco*

Vln. I-6 *pizz.* *f* *mp* *arco*

12

Vln. II-1 *fpp* *mf* *p* *3* *6* *6* *6*

Vln. II-2 *fpp* *mf* *p* *3* *6* *6* *6*

Vln. II-3 *fpp* *mf* *p* *6* *6* *6* *6*

Vln. II-4 *fpp* *mf* *p*

Vln. II-5 *fpp* *p* *6* *6* *6* *6*

12

Vla. *legato*

12

Vc. 1 *legato* *f*

Vc. 2 *legato* *f*

Vc. 3 *f*

12

D.B. *arco ord.* *legato* *f*

17

Vln. I-1 *fp* *cresc. poco a poco* S.T.

Vln. I-2 *fp* *cresc. poco a poco* S.T.

Vln. I-3 *fp* *cresc. poco a poco* S.T.

Vln. I-4 *fp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* S.T.

Vln. I-5 *fp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* S.T.

Vln. I-6 *fp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* S.T.

Vln. II-1 *fp* S.T.

Vln. II-2 *fp* S.T.

Vln. II-3 *sfz* *p* S.T.

Vln. II-4 *sfz* *p* S.T.

Vln. II-5 *sfz* *p* S.T.

Vla. 1 *f* *pizz.* *arco* S.T.

Vla. 2 *f* *pizz.* *arco* S.T.

Vla. 3 *f* *pizz.*

Vla. 4 *f* *pizz.*

Vc. *mf* *sfz* IV

D.B. *mf* *sfz*

Varium cæli

5

This musical score is for the Violins I and II, Violas, and Violoncello/Double Bass sections. It is divided into three systems, each starting at measure 20. The Violins I and II parts are in treble clef, while the Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass parts are in bass clef. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts are marked with *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamics, and include the instruction *cresc. poco a poco* (crescendo a little). The Viola part is marked with *mp* and includes the instruction *arco* (arco). The Violoncello and Double Bass parts are marked with *mp* and include the instruction *S.T.* (Sordina). The Violins I and II parts are marked with *ord.* (ordinario) and include the instruction *cresc. poco a poco*. The Violins I and II parts are marked with *ord.* (ordinario) and include the instruction *cresc. poco a poco*. The Violins I and II parts are marked with *ord.* (ordinario) and include the instruction *cresc. poco a poco*.

23 $\text{♩} = 96$ *rallentando*

Vln. I-1 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. I-2 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. I-3 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. I-4 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. I-5 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. I-6 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. II-1 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. II-2 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. II-3 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. II-4 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. II-5 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Vla. 1 *ord.* *sfz* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vla. 2 *ord.* *sfz* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vla. 3 *sfz* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vla. 4 *sfz* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vc. *sfz* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

D.B. *M.S.P.* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *pizz.*

Varium cæli

7

♩ = 60 *rit.* ♩ = 54

26

Vln. I-1 *pp* *mf* *mp*

Vln. I-2 *pp* *mp*

Vln. I-3 *pp* *mp*

Vln. I-4 *pp* *mp*

Vln. I-5 *pp* *mp*

Vln. I-6 *pp* *mp*

Vln. II-1 *pp* *mp*

Vln. II-2 *pp* *mp*

Vln. II-3 *pp* *mp*

Vln. II-4 *pp* *mp*

Vln. II-5 *pp* *mp*

26 ord.

Vla. 1 *mf* *mp*

Vla. 2 *mf* *mp*

Vla. 3 *mf* *mp*

Vla. 4 *mf* *mp*

26

Vc. 1 *mf* *mp*

Vc. 2 *mf* *mp*

Vc. 3 *mf* *mp*

26 arco ord.

D.B. *mf* *mp*

30

Vln. I-1 *p* *pp* 3 5 I natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. I-2 *p* *pp* 3 5 I natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. I-3 *p* *pp* 3 5 I natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. I-4 *p* *pp* 3 5 I natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. I-5 *pp* 3 II

Vln. I-6 *pp* 3 5 II

Vln. II-1 30 *p* *pp* II natural harmonics gliss. *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. II-2 *p* *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. II-3 *p* *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. II-4 *p* *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vln. II-5 *p* *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vla. 1 30 *p* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vla. 2 *p* *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.

Vla. 3 *p* *pp*

Vla. 4 *p* *pp*

Vc. 1 30 *p*

Vc. 2 *p* *pp* 3

Vc. 3 *p* *pp* III natural harmonics gliss.

D.B. 30 *p* *pp* IV natural harmonics gliss.