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Star-Crossed Signals

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Author

Adolphe, Julia

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Star-Crossed Signals

for string quartet

May 2018

Music by

Julia Adolphe

Star-Crossed Signals

for string quartet

Music by Julia Adolphe

This work was commissioned by the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts for *A String Quartet Library for the 21st Century*. The World Premiere was given by the Verona Quartet at Caramoor, Katonah, NY on June 21, 2018

Star-Crossed Signals (2018) – c. 15 minutes

- I. Delta Xray – c. 8 minutes
- II. Kilo Kilo – c. 7 minutes

Program Note –

Star-Crossed Signals imagines stabs at communication between two bodies, two vessels separated by an expansive landscape. The movement titles are derived from nautical signal flags used by ships at sea. *Delta* signifies “Keep clear of me. I am moving with difficulty” and *Xray* translates to “Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals.” Thwarted attempts to communicate, warn, and assert power sound throughout all four voices in the string quartet’s first movement as the individual instruments strive for dominance. The first violin’s initially stifled voice slowly rises to the surface, freely clashing with the turbulent atmosphere swarming its music. The dissonance reaches a peak and then dissipates, leaving the first violin to linger and return to its opening material. The second movement uses the maritime signal *Kilo*, meaning: “I wish to communicate with you.” The repetition of the word *Kilo* evokes both a longing for connection as well as the echoing nature of the music. In this movement, the strings gently reach for one another, enveloping and folding each line in a kind of dance. The imagery of navy signal flags stems from my childhood; my father used them in his early paintings. I was always struck by the idea of ships at sea attempting to reach one another through brightly colored coded patterns. It is a wonderful metaphor for human interaction.

World Premiere –

The Verona Quartet
The Venetian Theater, Caramoor, Katonah, NY
June 21, 2018

www.JuliaAdolphe.com

Star-Crossed Signals

Julia Adolphe

I. Delta Xray

♩ = 80

□ □ : slow motion bow, gritty sound between noise and pitch
light L. H. finger pressure

Violin I

ppp

marcato
at the frog

Violin II

f

marcato
at the frog

Viola

f

marcato
at the frog

Violoncello

f

f possible

bow bridge at 45 degree angle
no pitch, white noise only

norm. bowing and
L.H. pressure
non vib.
sul tasto

6

pp

f

ff

f

ff

at the
frog

f

ff

ff

f possible

bow bridge at 45 degree angle
no pitch, white noise only

A ♩ = 92 Subito

ord. marcato
12 at the frog

fp *fp* *f*

f *ff*

f *ffp*

at the frog

f

sul tasto
non vib.

p

non vib.
sul tasto

p

non vib.
sul tasto

ord.

mf

non vib.
sul tasto

ord.

mf

18

slow motion bow
gritty sound

pp

ord.

f

non vib.
sul tasto

p

non vib.
sul tasto

p

ord.

f

ord.

f

5

24

B

ff *pp*

pp

ff *pp*

pp

p *mp* *p*

p *pp* *p*

pp

p *pp*

molto vib.
molto espr.

ord.

29

normal bowing
and L. H. pressure
 $\text{> > } \wedge$

slow motion bow
gritty sound

34

norm.

slow motion
bow
gritty sound

norm.
non vib.
sul tasto

ord.

sul tasto
non vib.

pp

sul tasto, non vib.

pp

ord.

ord.

f possible
bow bridge at 45 degree angle
no pitch, white noise only

39

rit. — — — — — $\text{♩} = 80$

molto vib.
molto espr.

C

44 $\text{♩} = 92$ Subito ord.

stagger bowings change as needed

stagger bowings change as needed

stagger bowings change as needed

stagger bowings change as needed

fff *f* *fp* *pp*

49 rit. $\text{♩} = 80$

p *mp* *ff* *fff*

D $\text{♩} = 92$ Subito

54

p *ff* *ppp* *pp*

sul tasto non vib.

soft exhale

soft exhale

□ □ : slow motion bow, gritty sound noise and pitch L. H. finger pressure

bow stutter N.B. ord.

bow stutter N.B.

bow stutter N.B.

f possible

bow bridge at 45 degree angle

no pitch, white noise only

N.B. the bow is stuttering on the string;
alternate between stutters and silence at your own pace

77

pizz. *f*

pizz. *f*

arco molto vib.
molto espr.

ord.

mf *f* *ff*

mf *f* *ff*

mf *ff*

mf *ff*

81

G

punta d'arco

mf *pp* *p* *pp*

punta d'arco

mf *pp* *p* *pp*

punta d'arco

mf *pp* *p* *pp*

punta d'arco

mf *pp* *p* *pp*

83 ord.

mp

ord.

mp

ord.

mp

ord.

p mp

86

f

punta d'arco

mf

p

ord.

fp

pp

p

f

p

ord.

fp

pp

p

f

p

ord.

fp

pp

p

f

p

ord.

fp

pp

p

89

mp

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

f

ff

molto vib.
molto espr.

mf

mf

mf

mf

93 rit. **H** $\text{♩} = 80$ *molto espr.*

ord.

p *pp* *mf* *f* *espr.* *mf*

99 $\text{♩} = 92$ Subito

sul pont. ϕ

ord.

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

103 **I** rit. $\text{♩} = 80$

ord.

mp *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

N.B. /▲: stop on the string, scratch tone

ϕ

109 $\text{♩} = 92$ Subito

f *p* *fff* *f* *p* *ff* *mp*

sul pont. *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.*

J 115

mf *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*

ord. *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.*

rit. **K** $\text{♩} = 72$

119

f *fff* *fff* *fff* *mp*

125

poco accel. — — — —

sul pont.

p

pp

pp

pp

pp

mp *fp* *pp* *p*

130

ord. (b) $\text{♩} = 92$

p

f

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

134

ord. (b)

rit. — — — — **L** $\text{♩} = 72$

p

mf

mf

mf

f *p* *p* *mf*

140

fff *p* *f*

fff *p* *pp*

fff

fff

fff

rit. _ _ _ _

sul tasto

pp

147 ♩ = 66

p

pp

ord.

mf

pp

p

p

bow bridge at 45 degree angle
no pitch, white noise only

f possible

mf

p

M

153

f possible
bow body of the violin
to create white noise

pp

p *pp*

pp

p *pp*

mf *p*

p *mf*

sim.

f possible

mf

3

3

3

3

[illegible]

168 poco rit. $\text{— — — } \text{♩} = 58$

The musical score for measures 168-171 is as follows:

- Measure 168:** Violin I and II play a half note B-flat. Viola and Cello/Double Bass play a half note B-flat. Dynamics: *p*.
- Measure 169:** Violin I and II play a half note B-flat. Viola and Cello/Double Bass play a half note B-flat. Dynamics: *fff*.
- Measure 170:** Violin I and II play a half note B-flat. Viola and Cello/Double Bass play a half note B-flat. Dynamics: *fff*.
- Measure 171:** Violin I and II play a half note B-flat. Viola and Cello/Double Bass play a half note B-flat. Dynamics: *fff*.

circa 8 minutes

II. Kilo Kilo

$\text{♩} = 84$
ethereal

Violin 1
ppp

Violin 2
ppp

Viola
col legno battuto
ppp

Violoncello
col legno battuto
ppp

7

p

p

p

p

p

p

P

13

ppp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

pp

with mute

with mute

19

mp

with mute

pp

mf

p

espr.

mf

p

espr.

p>

mf

p

25

pp

f

p

without mute
col legno battuto

5

without mute
col legno battuto

p

3

without mute
col legno battuto

p

3

31

Q ♩ = 72 Subito

G. P.

ppp

pp

arco

p

G. P.

pp

p

G. P.

arco Solo espr.

pp

pizz.

mf

pp

37

ppp pp mp

ppp pp mp

pp mp

mp

42

pp

pp

p pp

p pp

pizz. pp

arco pp

R

46

ppp p

ppp p

arco pp mf pp

ppp p

pizz. arco

pp f

pp

51

col legno battuto
ricochet

pizz.

arco

mp *pp* *p*

mp *pp* *p*

pp *pp*

pizz. col legno battuto
ricochet arco *espr.*
ord.

mp *pp* *pp*

56

ff *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *mf*

60

mp *mp* *p* *p*

molto flautando
very fast bow

mp *mf* *mf* *mf*

mp *mf* *mf* *mf*

p *mf* *mf* *mf*

p *mf* *mf* *mf*

64 *ord.*
p *3* *rit.* *♩ = 58*
pp
ord.
p
ord.
p *ppp* *pizz.* *pp* *3*
ord.
p *pp* *3*

69 *pizz.* *arco* *molto flautando*
pp *very fast bow* *3* *p*
pizz. *arco* *molto flautando*
p *very fast bow* *3* *ord.* *mf*
arco *molto flautando*
p *very fast bow* *ord.* *mf*
3

74 **T** *Solo* *ord.*
p *mp* *pp* *3* *ppp*
pp *p* *pp* *ppp*
pp *3* *p* *pp* *ppp*
pp *3* *ppp*

poco accel. - - - - - ♩ = 72
molto espr.

79

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

sul C (C)

83

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

U

87

p *f* *mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

91

p *f*

95 *poco rit.* — — — — — ♩ = 66 V

ff *fff* *f*

100 *poco rit.* — — — — — ♩ = 58 *rit.* — — — — —

ff *mf*

W ♩ = 52

105 $\text{♩} = 58 \text{ Subito}$

fff *p* *ppp*

fff *p* *ppp*

fff *p* *ppp*

fff *p* *ppp*

110

pp *p*

pizz. *arco* *p* *pp* *pp*

pp *p* *pp* *pp*

pp *p* *pp* *pp*

115 rit. — — — — — ♩ = 52

ppp

pizz. *pp*

ppp

ppp

circa 6 minutes