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Mò Shēng 墨声 Ink Sound

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BYRON AU YONG

歐陽良仁

Mò Shēng 墨声 Ink Sound

for string quartet

Mò Shēng 墨声 Ink Sound – commissioned by the Frye Art Museum
on the occasion of the 潘公凱 Pan Gongkai Exhibition – was performed
by the Passenger String Quartet in Seattle on January 18, 2015

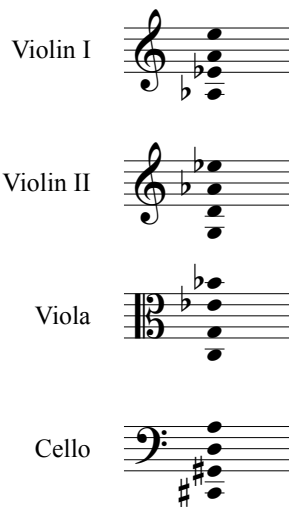
Duration 18 minutes or more

December 2014

Ink Sound 声

Performance Notes

Similar to painting with an ink brush, play sounds with refined physical movements on every part of the instrument. Begin and end the performance in the center. Freely repeat and hold motifs in any order. The overall effect reflects an understanding of the whole from a detailed focus on simple gestures through expansive variations. Inspired by the calligraphic impulse, gradations of texture reflect a depth of experience. Pitches in the Solos, Duo and final C# lift out of noise into emotion. X.1 to X.10 are chosen by chance. Relationships are non-linear.

Scordatura**Notation**

Top line is Right Hand (bowing or plucking)

Bottom line is Left Hand (fingering)

Left & Right hands are usually non-synchronous

Pitches & sounds freely change & repeat within rhythmic patterns

Trills & wide vibratos are a 1/4-tone or less

Rehearsal

Practice each gesture together, then play in any order freely repeating

Practice X.1 to X.10 together, then mix up the pages to play in any order

Structure

A TUTTI: Begin in center, then play bars in any order freely repeating

X CELLO SOLO: Violins & Viola play 3 X-Sections chosen randomly

B TUTTI: Play bars in any order freely repeating

X VIOLA SOLO: Violins & Cello play 3 X-Sections chosen randomly

C TUTTI: Play bars in any order freely repeating

X VIOLIN DUO: Viola & Cello play 4 X-Sections chosen randomly

D TUTTI: Play bars in any order freely repeating, end in center

Program Notes

Mò Shēng 墨声 Ink Sound is a work for string quartet that upholds scholarly ideals of self-reflection alongside engagement with shifting realities. Inspired by 18 ink paintings in the exhibition 潘公凯 Pan Gongkai: Withered Lotus Cast in Iron, the musical score opens western classical notation to be read in any order and repeated freely. Sonic gestures that vary fingering and bowing pressure relate to the variable densities of ink painting. These motifs can be read in any order by the string quartet, similar to how Pan's art work can be experienced. The music provides a template for realizing a calligraphic impulse; as brush stroke becomes painting, motion becomes sound.

Support

Mò Shēng 墨声 Ink Sound was commissioned by the Frye Art Museum and funded by the Frye Foundation with support of Frye Art Museum donors and members. Music was composed for the Passenger String Quartet to perform on the occasion of the Frye Art Museum's exhibition 潘公凯 Pan Gongkai: Withered Lotus Cast in Iron, curated by Jo-Anne Birnie Danzker. The score was finished during a residency at the Hermitage Artist Retreat.

Ink Sound 声

Evening Insects

mf
harm. double-stop gliss.

Contemplative

p
harmonic pizz.
snap pizz.



Transparent Sunset

mp
pizz.
slow wide vibrato

Sprout (begin together)

ff
flick bow in air
(left hand tacit)

Ferocious

sfz
harm. trem.
harm. gliss.

Clangerous

f
"the chop"
+ stomp foot

野香

fp
grind
fast vib.

Mo Sheng 墨 Cello Solo: Moon Fall

Byron Au Yong

Ink Sound 声

月
初
降

Opaque

perpetuum mobile for 41 seconds or more (freely repeat & change pitches)

Musical notation for the 'Opaque' section. It begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains a single note with a flat (Bb). The second staff contains a triplet of notes, with the first note marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third staff contains a triplet of notes, with the first note marked with a flat (Bb). The fourth staff contains a triplet of notes, with the first note marked with a sharp (B#) and a fermata. The fifth staff contains a single note. The sixth staff contains a single note. The seventh staff contains a single note.

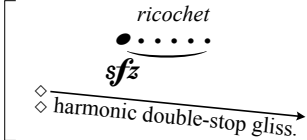
add held notes & accel. poco a poco

Musical notation for the 'add held notes & accel. poco a poco' section. It features a single note with a fermata, followed by a dynamic marking of *fp*. Below this, there is another single note with a sharp (B#) and a dynamic marking of *fp*.



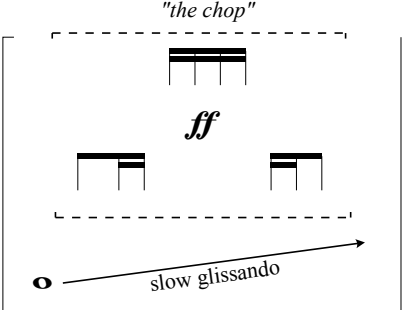
Ink Sound 声

Rough Splash

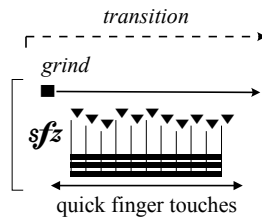


高
秋

Harvest Insects



Ink Sound 声



凉
暮
图

Glossy

play for 29 seconds or more

decel & decresc. poco a poco

(in any order)

ff

I/II

(slide between pitches on IV)



Ink Sound 声

Incense Rising
sul tasto
◇ —————→
pp natural harmonic sans vibrato



新
放

Delicate
col legno tratto sul ponticello
● ~~~~~
p fast vibrato

Ink Sound 声

铁
铸
残
荷

transition

ricochet

f

slow glissando

transition

harmonic gliss.

pp

Auspicious
play for 37 seconds or more

Abundant
play for 37 seconds or more

perpetuum mobile (freely repeat & change pitches)

perpetuum mobile (freely repeat & change pitches)

decel & decres. poco a poco
(in any order)

decel & decres. poco a poco
(in any order)

V
i
o
l
i
n
I

V
i
o
l
i
n
II

高
秋
图

transition

light fast trem. at tip

p ————— *f*

fast vib.

transition

natural harmonic sans vibrato

pp



Ink Sound 声

Fresh

light spiccato

p

Grand

pizz.

mp

Carefully (fade out together)

sans vibrato

fp

Flutter

circular bow ~ col legno tratto

mf

slow glissando

清影

Summer Insects

col legno battuto ord. to sul pont.

f

Ink Sound 声



翠

盖 **Flowing**

▼
■ charred grind

ppp ————— sfz ————— fp ————— ppp

ricochet , ■ charred grind

slow wide vibrato ~ indiscernible pitch

Ink Sound 声



暗
香
图

double-stop pizz.

mf

quick finger touches

Canopy-like Calm

heavy spiccato arco

f

quick finger touches

Ink Sound 声

Twilight

苗
壮

▼
//
▼ light fast tremelo at tip
p ————— *ff*
fast vib.

Anticipatory

"the chop"

f
harm. double-stop gliss.



Wild

snap pizz.

sfz
harmonic gliss.

Ink Sound 声



Dusk

flick bow in air

Cool

sul ponticello

Drop

harmonic pizz.

Clear

battuto

Lyrical

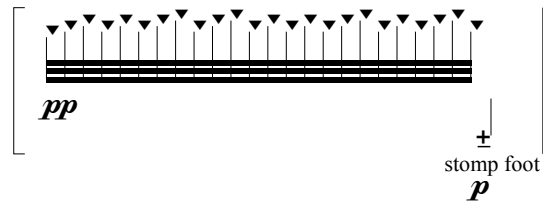
"the chop"

映日

Ink Sound 声

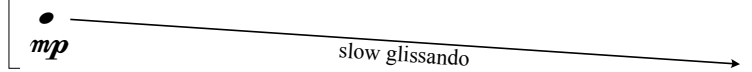
盛
夏
图

Diving
pitter-patter fingers on wood

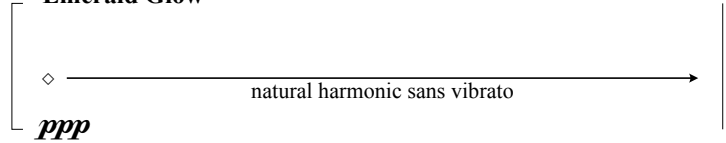


Moon-like

sul ponticello to sul tasto

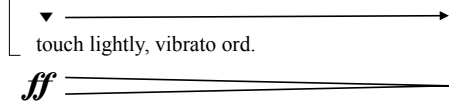


Emerald Glow



Silky

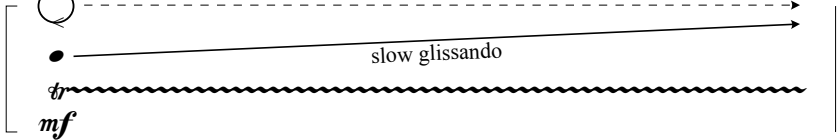
col legno tratto



Warm

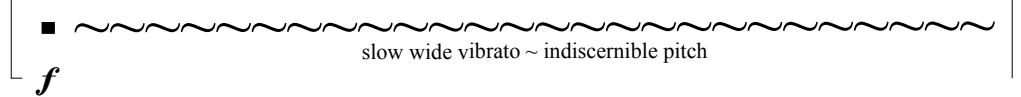


circular bow



Reflective

col legno between hair & tratto



Dim

sub pont. angle bow on bridge



Ink Sound 声

Echo
flick bow in air

p
 (left hand tacit)

Disappointed

snap pizz.
 o
 x
sfz

Field Insects

ricochet
f
slow gliss.



Mirror
pitter-patter fingers on wood

fp
 +
 >
 stomp foot

Savage
angle bow battuto

ff

Steady
martelé

mf

影
子
一

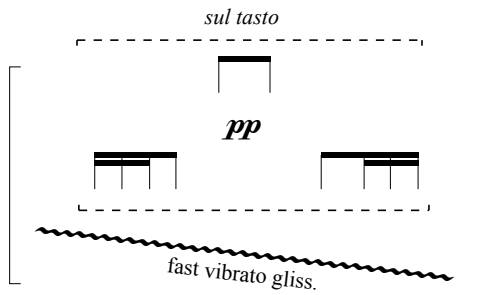
Discouraged

sul ponticello
mp slow wide vibrato ~ indiscernible pitch

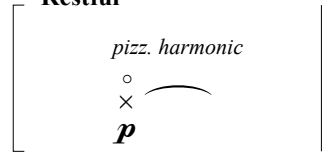
Ink Sound 声



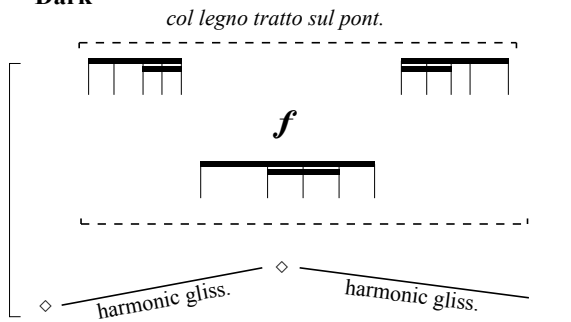
Falling



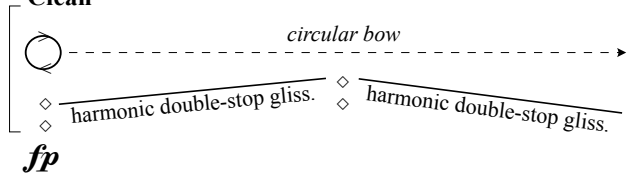
Restful



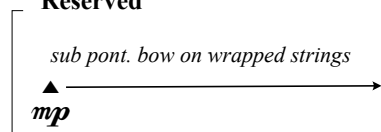
Dark



Clean



Reserved

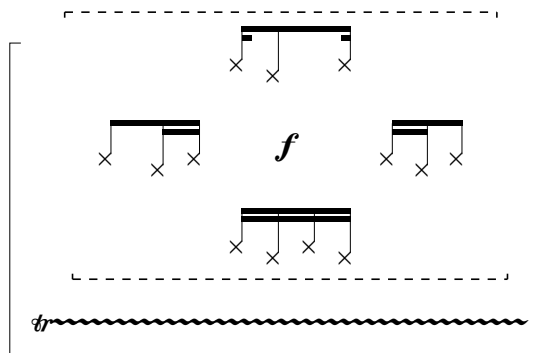


影
子
二

Ink Sound 声

Vigorous

multi-finger or thumb pizz.

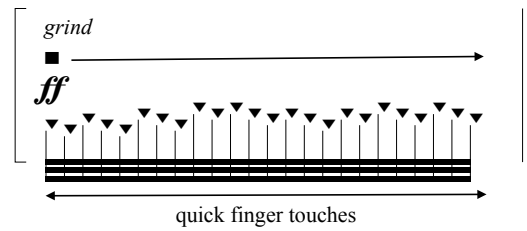


疾
风

Loud

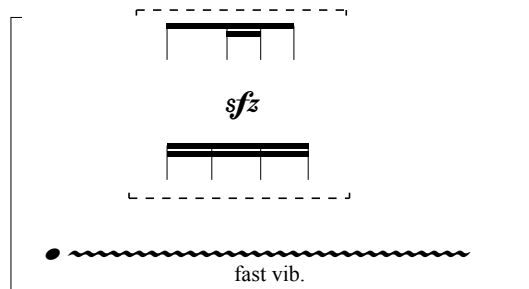
grind

ff



Barbarous

spiccato at frog



Ink Sound 声

Lofty

pizz.

mp

秋

Sick

"the chop"

f

quick finger touches

Mo Sheng 墨 X.10 Withering Autumn

Byron Au Yong

Ink Sound 声



Cruel

pp _____ *sfz*

• _____ \checkmark

no vib. – release finger and bow with quick wide vib.

残
铍

Mò Shēng 墨声 Ink Sound

First performance by the Passenger String Quartet
Frye Art Museum · Seattle · January 18, 2015

Andrew Joslyn, violin · Alina To, violin
Seth May-Patterson, viola · Rebecca Chung Filice, cello

The **Passenger String Quartet** is an avant-garde, experimental, neo-classical group, formed by Pacific Northwest composer/violinist Andrew Joslyn. The group is in high demand as studio session musicians, tours & performs original compositions, as well as backs a wide variety of regional and national touring groups such as David Bazan, DJ Spooky, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, Suzanne Vega, and many more.



Byron Au Yong (歐陽良仁) composes songs of dislocation such as Kidnapping Water: Bottled Operas (Bumbershoot Festival of the Arts) and Occupy Orchestra 無量園 Infinity Garden (Chicago Composers Orchestra). As the son of Chinese immigrants in America, his catalogue includes Jì Mò 寂寞: The Stillness of Solitude (Portland Taiko), Piāo Zhú 飄竹: Flying Bamboo (Seattle Asian Art Museum) and Yíjū 移居 (Jack Straw New Media Gallery). Honors include a Creative Capital Award and Sundance Institute Time Warner Foundation Fellowship, as well as support from Aldeburgh Music in the UK and the Dragon Foundation in Hong Kong.