

James Cave

# Latrabjarg



For Terry Holmes, through whose generous support the composition of this work has been made possible.

This work is also dedicated to the memory of Agnes Patricia Corbett (17.3.1917 - 23.10.2013)  
'Exegi monumentum aere perennius'

First performed at the York Spring Festival of New Music, 9.5. 2014  
Christopher Mullender (electric cello), James Cave (countertenor),  
Jon Brigg (conductor), University of York Chamber Ensemble and Choir

Icelandic texts selected and adapted from *Egil's Saga* and the poetry of Thorbjorn Hornkloffi by James Cave and Bethan Ellis. 'Tolf Synir' is based upon an Icelandic folk-song anthologised by Granville Bantock in *100 Folksongs of All Nations*. It has not proved possible to obtain an accurate English translation of this folk-song; hence only the Icelandic text has been provided for this movement.

Score in C

Solo Electric Cello

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B Flat (doubling Bass Clarinet in B Flat)

Horn in F

Percussion (two players: Vibraphone, Tubular Bells, Timpani, Tam-Tam, Snare Drum, Guiro, Temple Blocks)

Harp

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Solo Countertenor

Choir: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, with Soprano, Tenor, Baritone and Bass soloists

Fixed element: realised by Christopher Mullender. Played through a 6-channel Genelec speaker array

A note on notation: in this score, vocal slurs indicate phrasing rather than melismas.

This score has been prepared for English, rather than Icelandic speakers: as such, some of the Icelandic text has been phoneticised to facilitate easier reading.

Cover image: **Latrabjarg - first performance** (2014) by Milan Ivanic

# I: Prologue: A Storm at Sea

Bells distantly chiming; not too slow  $\text{♩} = 38$

Flute

Oboe

Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$

Horn in F

Perc. 1 Tubular bells

Perc. 2 Vibraphone

Harp

Countertenor

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Electric Violoncello

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Fixed element

The score is a page of a musical score for a symphony orchestra and vocal soloists. It features 15 staves. The top five staves are for woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$ , Horn in F, and Percussion 1 (Tubular bells). The next two are Percussion 2 (Vibraphone) and Harp. The vocal soloists are Countertenor, Soprano, Alto, and Tenor. The bottom five staves are for strings: Electric Violoncello, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. A Double Bass staff is also present. A 'Fixed element' staff is at the bottom. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (pp, f, sfpp, mp, mf, ppp), articulation (gliss., v), and performance instructions like 'freely; in rimur style' and '(offstage)'. The tempo is marked as 'not too slow' with a quarter note equal to 38 beats. The time signature is 4/4. The page number '3' is in the top right corner.

Fixed media starts and runs continuously (only key events are indicated in the score)

8

Perc. 2

Hp.

Ct.

Elec Vc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

f

mp

pp

f

sffmp

5

p

pp

pp

and when he put to sea, the winds delayed him

og er hann let i haf\_ tha\_ by jar\_ thi\_ hel\_ dur seintt



14

Perc. I

Perc. 2

Hp.

S.

A.

T.

Elec Vc.

Vln. I

f

mf

mf

p

f

mf

mp

mf

p

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mf

aa

(stagger breathing)

aa

(stagger breathing)

aa

(stagger breathing)

mf

pp

21 5

B. Cl.

Perc. 2

Hp.

Ct.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Elec Vc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Autumn came, and rough weather set in

tók ađ hau sta

freely; soloistic

airly; molto sul tasto

pizz arco

pizz arco

25

Fl. mp f

Ob. mp f

B. Cl. f

Perc. 1 mf

Perc. 2 p

Hp. p f Et Gt

Ct. og stæ - ði ve - ðrin - - - - - f

S. aa

A. aa

T. aa

Elec Vc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Detailed description of the musical score: This page contains a full orchestral score for measures 25-28. The instruments include Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Harp (Hp.), Clarinet (Ct.), Saxophone (S.), Alto Saxophone (A.), Trombone (T.), Electric Violoncello (Elec Vc.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The vocal line (Ct.) has the lyrics 'og stæ - ði ve - ðrin'. Dynamics range from piano (p) to forte (f). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and triplets.

A

Very freely

30

Fl. *mp* *f*

Ob. *mp* *f*

B. Cl. *ff*

Perc. I *ff* switch to tam-tam

Perc. 2 *ff* switch to tubular bells

Hp. *ff*

S. *ff*

A. *ff*

T. *ff*

Elec Vc. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

Vln. I *mf* *ff*

Vln. II *mf* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Db. *ff*



37

Elec Vc. *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *rit*

B

42 Mysterious; eerie, but with forward motion ♩ = 40

Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Hn. *p* *pp*

Perc. I *pp<sub>o</sub>* *ppp* switch to timpani

Hp. *p*

Ct. *mp* *p*  
 They sailed on past the Orkneys  
 Si gi du fy rir nort than Ork ney jar

S.

A.

T.

B.

Elec Vc. *mf* *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *molto sul tasto* *pppp*

Db. *molto sul tasto* *pppp*



48

Fl. Ob. B. Cl. Hn. Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Hp.

Then they sailed southwards past Scotland

and had great storms and cross winds

Ct. S. A. T. B.

si gi du their tha su dur fy rir Skot land og höf ðu storm.

Ork ney jar si gi du their fy rir Skot land og hof ðu storm.

Ork ney jar si gi du their fy rir Skot land og hof ðu storm.

Ork ney jar si gi du their fy rir Skot land og hof ðu storm.

Elec Vc. Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Db.



A storm at sea, gradually rising  $\text{♩} = 44$

54

Fl.  $pp$

Ob.  $f$   $pp$

B. Cl.  $f$   $pp$

Hn.  $f$

Perc. I  $mf$   $p$

Perc. 2  $f$

Hp.  $f$   $mp$

Ct.  $f$

S.  $f$

A.  $f$

T.  $f$

B.  $f$

Elec. Vc.  $f$   $mf$

Vln. I  $arco$   $pp$

Vln. II  $arco$   $pp$

Vla.  $pp$

Vc.  $sul pont$   $ff$   $mf$

Db.  $sul pont$   $ff$   $mf$

mi kinn og ve þur þvert - Fin na þeir ei gi fyrr en grun föll vo ru á út bor ða og

Before they were aware, breakers were both seaward and ahead

$G^\#$   $A^\#$   $C^\#$   $C^\#$

59

Fl. *f mp*

Ob. *f mp*

B. Cl. *f mp*

Hn. *mf*

Perc. I *mp mf*

Hp. *f mp mf*  
G# F#

Ct. *f mp*  
svo fram fy rir

S. *mf*  
ða og

A. *mf*  
út bor ða

T. *mf*  
út bor ða

B. *mf*  
bor ða

Elec Vc.

Vln. I

Vln. II *mf*

Vla.

Vc.

Db.



Slightly slower; more reflective ♩ = 38

62

Fl. : ff p

Ob. : ff p

B. Cl. *ossia* *vivo* ff p

Hn. *vivo* ff p pp

Perc. I *vivo* ff p Tam-tam ppp

Perc. 2 ff pp

Hp. ff pp

S. *vivo* ff pp  
svo fram fy rir

A. ff pp

T. ff pp

B. ff pp

Elec Vc. *vivo* ff pp mf f

Vln. I *vivo* fff pp

Vln. II *vivo* fff pp

Vla. *vivo* fff pp

Vc. *vivo* fff pp

Db. *vivo* fff pp



Fl. *pppp*

Ob.

B. Cl.

Hn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *pp* a niente

Hp. *pp*

Ct. *pp* Under sail they ran ashore and came to land at Humbermouth  
*sffpp* *ppp* *pp*  
 si gi du pá til brots og ko mu að lan di við Hum ru my nni

S. *sffpp* beir brots

A. *sffpp* beir brots

T. *sffpp* beir brots

B. *sffpp* beir brots

Elec Vc. *sffp* *gliss.* (delay + reverb) *a niente*

Vln. I *pppp* sul tasto; col legno

Vln. II *pppp* sul tasto; col legno

Vla. *pppp* sul tasto; col legno

Vc. *pppp* sul tasto; col legno

Db. *pppp* sul tasto; col legno