

With ripples like dragon scales

for violin, piano and percussion

Benjamin Gait (Spring/Summer 2010)

Percussion (1 player)

Tuned: Tubular Bells, Crotales, Glockenspiel, Vibraphone

Untuned: One small cymbal, Tam-tam, Bass Drum

Except where otherwise stated, all percussion (except the tubular bells and vibraphone, where pedal marks are always indicated) should be allowed to resonate naturally.

Notes

With ripples like dragon scales, for violin, piano and percussion, takes its name and some structural and expressive ideas from a poem by Li Po, translated by Ezra Pound. The poem, Exile's Letter, is melancholic and reminiscent in tone, with the main body of text recalling a close companionship which has since been separated. A very long first stanza is followed by two much shorter ones, more bleak in tone. A similar structure is played out in this piece: the first movement builds to a violin cadenza, from which the material of the much shorter second and third movements is drawn.

Duration: c. 10'
(I c.5', II c.2', III c.3')

With ripples like dragon-scales

for Lu Yan

I

Benjamin Gait (Spring/Summer 2010)

Violin $\frac{4}{4}$ = 40 **accel.** $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 40$ **accel.** $\frac{3}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 80$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 40$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Piano *f* *ppp* *p* *ff* *mf* *8va* *pluck string inside* *8va* *mf espress.*

Tubular Bells *pp* *soft beaters*

Crotales *f*

Glockenspiel *mp*

Cymbal *hard beater* *pp*

Bass Drum *large soft* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

9 $\frac{4}{4}$ nat. sul pont. $\frac{3}{4}$ nat. $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Vln. $\text{sub } p$ ff mf ff p

Pno. ff pp mf

Crot. f p

Glock. p

Vib. mp p pp

Cym. medium soft pp hard mp

B. D. medium soft p

Detailed description: This musical score page contains measures 9 through 14. The Vln. part begins with a natural note, followed by a triplet of eighth notes, then a half note, and continues with various dynamics including *sub p*, *ff*, *mf*, and *p*. The Pno. part features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a single eighth note in the left hand, both marked *ff*, followed by a series of chords and single notes marked *pp* and *mf*. The Crot. part has a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and a single eighth note marked *p*. The Glock. part has a single eighth note marked *p*. The Vib. part has a triplet of eighth notes marked *p* and a single eighth note marked *pp*. The Cym. part has a triplet of eighth notes marked *pp* and a single eighth note marked *mp*. The B. D. part has a triplet of eighth notes marked *p* and a single eighth note marked *p*.

16 $\text{♩} = 60$ poco accel.

Vln.

Pno.

Vib.

B. D.

pp *ppp* *mp* *p*

sempre pp

l.h. soft medium *p* (+ r.h.)

The musical score is for a piece in 3/4 time, marked with a tempo of 60 beats per minute. The score is divided into four staves: Violin (Vln.), Piano (Pno.), Vibraphone (Vib.), and Basso Continuo (B. D.). The Violin part begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a long melodic line with various intervals and a crescendo leading to a forte (f) dynamic. The Piano part features a sparse accompaniment with triplets and a crescendo leading to a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The Vibraphone part has a continuous eighth-note pattern with triplets and a crescendo leading to a piano (p) dynamic. The Basso Continuo part has a simple bass line with a crescendo leading to a piano (p) dynamic.

24 $\text{♩} = 100$ $\text{♩} = 40$ frequent bowing $\frac{3}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 60$ $\frac{4}{4}$ poco sul pont. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ nat. $\frac{3}{4}$ sul pont. $\frac{5}{4}$

Vln. *ff* *ff* *mf* *sub. pp* *mf* *p*

Pno. *ff* *8va* Freeze *3* *8va* *3*

Vib. *p* arco

T.-t. Freeze *mp*

B. D.

34 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Vln. *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *f*

Vib. *p* *pp* *beaters*

sul tasto *sempre sul tasto*

41 $\frac{4}{4}$

Vln. *mp* *pizz.* *pp* *sul pont. arco* *pp* *nat.* *f*

Vib. *p*

42 43 44 45

46 $\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ = 40 *accel.*

Vln. *p* *f* *fff*

Pno. *pp* *fff*

Glock. *mf* *fff*

Vib. *mp*

47 48 49 50

48 $\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ = 40

Vln. *ff* aggressive, frequent bowing al niente pizz., dry *pp*

Pno. cluster, B to F* *ffff* continue ad.lib at a moderately fast pace, irregularly *pp*

Tub. B. mallet *pp* *ppp*

Crot. *ff*

Cym. soft *p* *mp*

T.-t. large soft *p*

B. D. large soft *ppp*

*very late, like an acciacatura to the violin on the second beat

II

57 $\text{♩} = 60$, mostly sparse

Vln.

pizz. *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Pno.

(l.v. sempre) *p*

strike lower strings
with palm *mp*

Tub. B.

medium soft *p*

wire brushes *pp*

mallets *pp*

B. D.

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

68 $\frac{2}{4}$ arco sul pont. $\frac{3}{4}$ pizz. $\frac{4}{4}$ arco $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Vln. *mp* *ff* *mf* *mp espress.*

Pno. *p* *p* *f* *3* *3*

Tub. B. *pp* *medium soft* *f*

B. D. *pp* *mp* *fff* *sempre pp*

76 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ *pizz.* *3* *3* *3*

Vln. *ff* *ff*

Pno. *p* *mp* *fff*

Vib. *pp* *sempre pp*

III

83 $\text{♩} = 100$
arco
sul pont.

Vln. *mf* *ff* *nat.*

Pno. *ff* *pp*

Vib. *ppp* *ff*

89 $\frac{4}{4}$ sul pont. *mf* *ff* *pp* *pp* *p*

Vln. *mf* *ff* *pp* *pp* *p*

Pno. *ff* *pp* *p*

Vib. *ppp* *ff*

B. D. *mf*

rhythm ad lib; fit into the space provided
gva

96

Vln.

nat. *ff*

pizz. *pp*

arco *espress.*

ff *pp*

5

4

sul pont. 7

Pno.

(8)⁷

ff *pp*

15^{mf}

ff *p*

8^{mf}

ff

3

3

Crot.

ff

3

Glock.

mf *ff*

ff 3

3

Vib.

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* 3

medium soft 3

B. D.

pp

Detailed description: This musical score page contains measures 96 through 103. The Vln. part begins with a natural note, followed by a forte (ff) section, then a pizzicato (pizz.) section in piano (pp), and an arco section with an expressive (espress.) marking. It features a 5-measure rest, a 4-measure rest, and ends with a sul ponticello (sul pont.) section marked with a 7-measure rest. The Pno. part includes an 8-measure rest, a 15-measure section marked mezzo-forte (mf), and various dynamics including ff, p, and ff. It contains several triplets and a section marked 8^{mf}. The Crot. part has a single note marked ff with a triplet. The Glock. part starts with mf, then ff, and includes a triplet marked ff. The Vib. part has dynamics ranging from pp to ff, with a triplet marked ff. The B. D. part features a triplet marked medium soft and a final pp section.

106 arco

Vln. *f* 5 *ff* *p* *8va*

Pno. *p*

Vib. *p*

Cym. *p*

2/4 *4/4*

113

Vln. *ff* *p* *8va* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vib. *ff* *pp*

B. D. *pp* *p*

122 ♩ = 80

Vln. *p* 3

Pno. *p* ad lib inside the piano on these four notes at a moderate pace, very quietly *ppp* *p*

Tub. B. *pp*

Glock. *p*

Vib. *ppp* *p*

B. D. *mf*