

Veda Hingert-McDonald

Ainsi le crépuscule
for string quartet

2021

Written for the Ligeti Quartet 'Workout'

Performance Notes

Ainsi le crépuscule (Thus the Dusk) is inspired by my research on Henri Dutilleux's manipulation of memory in his string quartet, *Ainsi la nuit* (Thus the Night). Rather than presenting themes to be developed, Dutilleux provides motivic cells to be kaleidoscopically transformed in ways that are at times recognizable by ear, and at times recognizable only to the unconscious mind. This non-linear layering of referential material creates a sense of "auditory déjà vu," as my teacher calls it.

I sought with *Ainsi le crépuscule* to pay homage to one of my favourite string quartets ever written by borrowing from Dutilleux's harmonic language, and explore referentiality and memory in my own work. Dawn and dusk are transitional periods between day and night, and this is crepuscular music: fragments of transitional material evocative of dawn and dusk and referencing musical material that is never heard.

The fragments are made to be played with pauses in between, and there is no need to create a sense of fluency or progression between them.

Ainsi le crépuscule

Veda Hingert-McDonald

$\text{♩} = 67$

Violin I
mf

Violin II
pizz. *ff* arco *mf* pizz. arco

Viola
pizz. *ff* arco *mf*

Violoncello
mf pizz. arco

Vln. I
3

Vln. II
3 3 3 3 3

Vla.
3

Vc.
pizz.

5 $\text{♩} = 60$ sul pont.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. (arco) sul pont.

p

8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ord.

fp

10

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp sempre

fp

mp

mp

pp sempre

3

13

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

p
pp

Measures 13-16: This system contains four measures of music. The first measure is in 4/4 time, and the subsequent three are in 3/4 time. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. Dynamics include *p* and *pp*. The score features complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed notes and rests.

17 $\text{♩} = 100$ senza vib.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

p
p
p

Measures 17-18: This system contains two measures of music in 3/4 time. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 100$. The first measure is marked "senza vib.". The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. Dynamics include *p*. The Violin II and Viola parts feature prominent triplet patterns. The Violoncello part also includes a triplet in the first measure.

19

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

Measures 19-20: This system contains two measures of music in 3/4 time. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin II and Viola parts continue with triplet patterns. The Violoncello part features a long, sustained note in the second measure.

21

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

23

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

25

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

28 $\text{♩} = 90$
con sord.

Vln. I
pppp sempre
con sord.

Vln. II
pppp sempre
con sord.

Vla.
pppp sempre
con sord.

Vc.
pppp sempre

34

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

39

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

44 *senza sord.*

Vln. I *p* *senza sord.*

Vln. II *pizz.* *f*

Vla.

Vc.

45 $\text{♩} = 80$

Vln. I *p* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

Vln. II *p* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pp*

Vla. *senza sord.* *p*

Vc. *senza sord.* *p*

49

Vln. I *arco* *pizz.*

Vln. II *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc.

53

arco pizz.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53, 54, and 55. Measure 53 features a Vln. I staff with a whole rest, while Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. play a half-note chord (F4, A4, C5). Measure 54 shows Vln. I with a half-note chord (G4, B4, D5) and Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with a half-note chord (F4, A4, C5). Measure 55 shows Vln. I with a half-note chord (G4, B4, D5) and Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with a half-note chord (F4, A4, C5). The Vc. staff includes markings for 'pizz.' and 'arco'.

56

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 56, 57, and 58. Measure 56 shows Vln. I with a half-note chord (G4, B4, D5) and Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with a half-note chord (F4, A4, C5). Measure 57 shows Vln. I with a half-note chord (G4, B4, D5) and Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with a half-note chord (F4, A4, C5). Measure 58 shows Vln. I with a whole rest, while Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. play a half-note chord (F4, A4, C5).