

David Bruce
The Eye of Night
for flute harp and viola



Perusal

*Commissioned by Art of Elan, San Diego
Dedicated to Gordon Brodfuehrer*

The Eye of Night

The Eye of Night was commissioned by Art of Elan in San Diego and is dedicated to Gordon Brodfuehrer. It is a series of four tender movements, each in their own way a kind of nocturne. The night and in particular the night sky has long held a fascination for me. We all know the awe-inspiring site that awaits us if we are lucky enough to find ourselves away from the city lights in front of a cloudless night sky - I think the awe we experience on such occasions is not just because of the beauty and grandeur of the spectacle - but because it one of the very few times we are directly faced with the vast mystery of the universe. I have made an oath to myself that at least once every year I will make a pilgrimage to somewhere where I am able to lose myself in such a spectacle.

Continuing a source of inspiration from one of the songs in my song-cycle for Dawn Upshaw, *The North Wind was a Woman* (a series of songs conveying the painfully melancholy points of view of inanimate or incorporeal objects: snow, wind, night, the moon and a mountain), I have been drawn to the image, first discovered in a short story by Aimee Bender, of the night sky as a giant eye looking down on us, unblinkingly. The image fascinates me because it captures the complexity of feelings one experiences when staring up into space - it is friendly, familiar and constant, whilst at the same time being overwhelming, dizzying and quietly terrifying.

The first of the pieces has a dark atmosphere, that falls somewhere between sensual and plaintive. The melodic flute lines draw inspiration from the ornamental style of Indian bansuri flute playing. I am very grateful to Alex Housego, a British-born flute player who spent much of his childhood in India and so is familiar with both western and Indian traditions. His advice in finding areas of bansuri-flute technique which would translate adequately to a modern western flute was invaluable.

The second, very short movement has a sweeter atmosphere, showing a more tender and blissful side of night. The third, while still in a largely *piano* or *pianissimo* dynamic register is more active and flowing. The final piece is a lullaby, or 'song without words' inspired by William Blake's Cradle Song where he imagines the 'little sorrows' and 'quiet desires' of a sleeping baby.

David Bruce 11 July 2010

The Eye of Night

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I.

Tender, sensual, quietly plaintive $\text{♩} = 60$

Throughout the piece, but especially in the first movement, the flute writing draws inspiration from the Indian Bansuri flute. Whilst it is recognised the Bansuri is very different from a modern Western flute, the player should nevertheless attempt to capture the nuance and atmosphere of Indian Bansuri playing, particularly on the embellishments and slides.

Alto Flute
pp sul tasto. very fast bow, with absolutely no pressure down on to the strings, producing a wispy 'breathing' sound

Viola
pp

Harp
p
mf

A. Fl.
8 (like a little weep)

Va.

Hp.
Eb Gb

A. Fl.
15

Va.
2 (*)
3
(* these slides should imitate the ornamental slides of Indian violin music)

Hp.
F# G# F#

22

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

29

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

ppp

mf

pizz

36

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

mf

9

p

turn in

pp

42

A. Fl. *mp pp pp mp* *p* turn in

Hp.

49

A. Fl. *p* *mf p mf* *p* sim.

Hp.

55

A. Fl.

Hp.

62

A. Fl. lip bend

Hp.

68 **B**

A. Fl. *5* *3*

Va. *arco* *p* *2* *gliss.*

Hp. *Eb* *p* *3*

74

Va. *gliss.*

Hp. *3*

81 **C**

A. Fl. *mp* > *turn in* *3*

Va. *p* *gliss.* *mp*

Hp. *mp*

89

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

dim. mp

dim. p

dim. p

This system contains measures 89 through 95. The flute part features a melodic line with a *dim.* dynamic at measure 90 and a *mp* dynamic at measure 92, including a triplet in measure 91. The viola part has a *dim.* dynamic at measure 90 and a *p* dynamic at measure 92. The piano accompaniment includes a *dim.* dynamic at measure 90 and a *p* dynamic at measure 92.

96

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

mf 5 5 5 mp

p 3

mf

This system contains measures 96 through 101. The flute part starts with a *mf* dynamic and includes five-measure rests in measures 97, 98, and 99, followed by a *mp* dynamic. The viola part has a *p* dynamic and a triplet in measure 101. The piano accompaniment features a *mf* dynamic in measure 101. A large watermark 'PENSU' is overlaid on the page.

102

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3

This system contains measures 102 through 107. The flute part features a melodic line with a triplet in measure 102 and five-measure rests in measures 103, 104, 105, and 106. The viola part has triplets in measures 102, 103, and 104. The piano accompaniment includes a *b* note in measure 103.

108

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

gliss.

3

3

3

3

3

114

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

gliss.

pp

pp

p

mf

tr

3

3

E

122

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

mf

129

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

pizz

3

135

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

p

(pizz)

p

143

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

148

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

ossia octava basso

153

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

turn in

G

p ben ritmico

mf 3 ben ritmico

158

Va.

Hp.

arco

pp

164

A. Fl. Flute *f*

Va. pizz *p* arco *mp*

Hp.

170

Fl.

Va. pizz *f*

Hp.

177

Fl. (*) low D fingering

Va.

Hp. B# Bb

(*) 'snatch' away the grace-notes here
- very fast, so that they don't really sound,
again, as in Indian music

183

Fl.

Va. *arco sul tasto, punta d'arco*
mp

Hp. *3*
F#
sfz

188

Fl. *f*

Va. *arco*
mf
ricochet

Hp. *f*
F#
G#

194

Fl.

Va. *ricochet*

Hp.

199

Fl. *f* *ff*

Va. *mf* *ff* pizz arco

Hp. *ff* F₄

203

Fl. *f*

Va. pizz arco *f* pizz arco sul tasto, punta d'arco

Hp. *mf*

210

Fl. *f*

Va.

Hp. 8^{va}

218 K

Fl. *pp*

Va. *pp*

Hp. *mp*

226

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

sva

232 **rall.** to A. Fl.

Fl.

Va. (keep fast tremolo through the rall.) *pppp*

Hp. *p*

Tenderly ♩ = 96

II.

Viola *pizz sul tasto*
p dolce (behind harp)

Harp *mp*

246

Va.

Hp.

254

Va.

Hp.

261

Va.

Hp.

L

268

A. Fl. *pp*

Va. *pp* *sim.*

Hp. *pp*

275

A. Fl. *pp*

Va. *pp* *arco*

Hp. *pp* *8va*

M

282

A. Fl. *p*

Hp. *p*

v.quick 'folk-like' grace-notes -
so quick that the grace note doesn't fully sound

290

A. Fl.

Hp.

297 N

A. Fl.

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

Hp.

304 O

A. Fl.

Va. *pizz* *pp* *pp* *sim*

Hp.

312

A. Fl.

Va. *arco* *pp* *loco* *pp*

Hp.

319 **P**

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

pp *mp* *pizz quasi-guitarra* *mp*

325

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

f subito *f subito* *mf* *f subito* *mf*

331

A. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

mf *f* *arco* *mf* *f* *mf*

IV^o II I II III IV

III.

With a lilt ♩ = 160

Flute *pp* *misterioso*

Viola *pizz* *mf*

Harp *mf*

Fl. 352

Va.

Hp.

Fl. 357

Va.

Hp.

361

Fl. *p*

Va.

Hp.

366

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

370

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

374

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

This system contains measures 374 through 377. The Flute part is highly technical, featuring a sequence of triplets and quintuplets. The Violin part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Piano part features a bass line with some triplet figures in the right hand.

378

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

This system contains measures 378 through 381. The Flute part continues with complex rhythmic patterns, including a long phrase of triplets. The Violin and Piano parts continue their accompaniment, with the Piano part showing some triplet figures in the right hand.

382

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

This system contains measures 382 through 385. The Flute part features a sequence of triplets. The Violin and Piano parts continue their accompaniment, with the Piano part showing some triplet figures in the right hand.

386

Fl. *gliss.*

Va.

Hp. *mf* *f*

Q

Detailed description: This system covers measures 386 to 389. The Flute part (Fl.) has a glissando (gliss.) in measure 387. The Viola part (Va.) features a melodic line with triplets in measures 387 and 388. The Harp part (Hp.) has a steady accompaniment of triplets in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and forte (f). A 'Q' (Crescendo) marking is present above the Flute staff.

390

Fl.

Va. *arco* *mf* slide finger as in Indian music

Hp. *p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 390 to 393. The Flute part (Fl.) is silent. The Viola part (Va.) plays arco in measure 390 and includes the instruction 'slide finger as in Indian music' in measure 391. The Harp part (Hp.) features a complex texture with triplets in both hands. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and piano (p). A large watermark 'APRILSAL' is overlaid on the page.

394

Va.

Hp.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 394 to 397. The Viola part (Va.) continues with a melodic line of triplets. The Harp part (Hp.) continues with its accompaniment of triplets in both hands.

407 **S**

Fl. *mf*

Hp. *mf*

410

Fl. *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *mf*

Va. *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *mf*

Hp. *mf* *cresc.*

414

Fl. *ff*

Va. *ff*

Hp. *ff*

T

417

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

420

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

424

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

428

Fl. *molto ff*

Va. *molto ff*

Hp. *molto ff*

Musical score for measures 428-430. The Flute (Fl.) part features a melodic line with triplets and dynamics markings of *molto* and *ff*. The Viola (Va.) part mirrors the Flute's triplets. The Harp (Hp.) part consists of a rhythmic accompaniment of triplets, also marked *molto ff*. A large slur encompasses the first two measures of this system.

431

Fl. *f*

Va. *pizz* *f* *p*
(use open strings wherever possible)

Hp. *8va* *loco* *f* *p*

Musical score for measures 431-435. The Flute (Fl.) part continues with triplets, marked *f*. The Viola (Va.) part includes a *pizz* (pizzicato) instruction and dynamics of *f* and *p*, with the instruction "(use open strings wherever possible)". The Harp (Hp.) part features an *8va* (octave) marking and *loco* (loco) instruction, with dynamics of *f* and *p*. A large watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid on the score.

436

Fl. *pp*

Va. *p*

Hp. *p*

Musical score for measures 436-440. The Flute (Fl.) part is marked *pp* (pianissimo) and features triplets. The Viola (Va.) part is marked *p* (piano) and includes triplets. The Harp (Hp.) part is marked *p* and includes triplets. A large watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid on the score.

451

Fl. *pp* *mf*

Va.

Hp.

455

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

459

Fl. *tr* *5*

Va. *tr* *5*

Hp.

462

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

Musical score for measures 462-464. The Flute part (Fl.) begins with a melodic line consisting of several triplet eighth notes, followed by a quintuplet eighth note. The Viola part (Va.) provides a rhythmic accompaniment of triplet eighth notes. The Piano part (Hp.) features a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes in the right hand and half notes in the left hand.

465

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

mf

Musical score for measures 465-468. The Flute part (Fl.) has rests for the first two measures, then a melodic phrase starting in measure 467. The Viola part (Va.) features a continuous rhythmic accompaniment of triplet eighth notes. The Piano part (Hp.) features a simple harmonic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 465.

469

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

p

W

gliss.
(gliss over full length of note)

Musical score for measures 469-472. The Flute part (Fl.) has rests for the first two measures, then a melodic phrase starting in measure 471. The Viola part (Va.) features glissando markings (*gliss.*) over the notes. The Piano part (Hp.) features a simple harmonic accompaniment with triplets in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *p* is present in measure 471. A box containing the letter 'W' is located above measure 471.

474

Va. *p*

Hp. *cresc.* *mf* 6 6 *cresc.* 6

477

Va. *gliss.*

Hp. *p* *cresc.* 3 3 3 3 6 6 *mf*

480

Va. *(p)* *cresc.*

Hp. *cresc.* 6 6 3 3 3 3 *p* *cresc.*

483

Fl. *mf* 6 6 6 6

Va. *mf* 3 3 3 3 *p* 3 3 *cresc.*

Hp. *mf* 3 3 3 3 *p* *cresc.*

486

Fl. *mf* 3 3 3 *cresc.*

Va. *f* non troppo 3 3 3

Hp. 3 3 3

488

Fl. 3 3 3 3

Va. *fmp* off the string 3 3 3 3 *fmp*

Hp. 3 3 3 3 *fmp*

490

Fl. *mf* *cresc.*

Va. *mf* *cresc.*

Hp. *mf* *cresc.*

494

Fl.

Va.

Hp.

497

Fl. *ff* *on the string*

Va. *f* (flute in foreground till end)

Hp. *ff*

500

Fl. *f* as fast as possible

Va. *mf* 3 *mp* 3

Hp. *f* 3 *mp* 3

502

Fl. ()

Va. *p* 3

Hp. *p* 3 *dim.* 3

504

Fl. *pp*

Va. *dim.* 3

Hp. *pp* 3 *dim.* 3

IV.

$\text{♩} = 72$

senza vib., viol-like

Viola

mp

517

Va.

pp *mp* *mf*

528

Va.

mf **rall.**

X A tempo

538

B. Fl.

Bass Flute

p *molto tranquillo, teneramente*

Va.

Hp.

pp

546

B. Fl.

Hp.

553

B. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

pp misterioso

This system contains measures 553 through 558. The B. Fl. part begins with a triplet of eighth notes followed by a sixteenth-note run. The Va. part features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with a *pp misterioso* dynamic marking. The Hp. part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and accents.

559

B. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

p

This system contains measures 559 through 563. The B. Fl. part has a 7th fingering. The Va. part features sixteenth-note patterns with 6th fingerings. The Hp. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with a *p* dynamic marking.

564

B. Fl.

Hp.

This system contains measures 564 through 568. The B. Fl. part has a 7th fingering. The Hp. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and accents.

570 **Z**

B. Fl. *pp espress.*

Hp. *l.v.*

577

B. Fl.

Hp.

8^{va}

582 **AA**

B. Fl.

Va. *pp*

Hp. (8)

588

B. Fl.

pp sempre 15

Va.

6 6

Hp.

592

B. Fl.

BB

Va.

6 6 6

Hp.

p

596

B. Fl.

15

Va.

6 6

Hp.

CC Hushed, with great inner intensity

600

B. Fl. *pp* *sim.*

Va. *p* senza vib., viol-like

Hp.

Hushed, with great inner intensity

608

B. Fl.

Va. *tenuto*

618

B. Fl.

Va.

Hp. *p*

628

B. Fl.

Va.

Hp.

638

DD Calmo

Hp.

p

649

Hp.

658

Hp.

p

rall.