

DAVID DZUBAY

**all water has a perfect memory**

(2007)

clarinet, string quartet & piano

**PRO NOVA MUSIC**  
=====

# **all water has a perfect memory**

for Clarinet, String Quartet and Piano  
(2007)

**Duration:** 15 minutes

## **Program Note:**

I began composing *all water has a perfect memory* at the MacDowell Colony as an emotional response to fellow "colonist" Natalia Almada's documentary film of the same name that explores family memories of her two year old sister's drowning. The title is drawn from an essay written by Toni Morrison, in which she speaks of the Mississippi River's ability to conjure memories: *"They straightened out the Mississippi River in places, to make room for houses and livable acreage. Occasionally the river floods these places ... but in fact it is not flooding; it is remembering. ... All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get back to where it was."*

The sea has long been a source of mystery and spirituality for me. Spending portions of summers in my youth at a remote Oregon beach exploring rocky protrusions, cliffs and caves accessible only at low tide instilled a sense of awe and respect for the elemental power of the ocean, well-spring of life. And one sensed how easily life can be lost. Our human fragility was made clear witnessing the deaths of two teenage boys at the coast, one thirty years ago and one in the summer of 2005. Recent times have of course held large-scale tragedies involving ocean waters - from the tsunami in Asia to breached dams in New Orleans. This composition is dedicated to those reclaimed by the sea.

Musically, the work presents a theme featuring clarinet, and six variations featuring in turn, viola, cello, piano, violin 1, *tutti* and violin 2. Extended transitions follow the viola and violin 1 variations. The climatic *tutti* variation contains seven 'waves', the proverbial 'seventh wave' being largest and leading to the apex of the work and then a return to the opening tempo for the concluding sixth variation.

David Dzubay

Commissioned and Premiered by Voices of Change, Joe Illick, Artistic Director.  
First performance: September 16, 2007, Caruth Auditorium, SMU, Dallas.

David Dzubay is Professor of Music, Chair of the Composition Department, and Director and Conductor of the New Music Ensemble at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana.

## **PRO NOVA MUSIC**

(BMI)

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Commissioned by Voices of Change, Joe Illick, Artistic Director

# all water has a perfect memory

DAVID DZUBAY

(b.1964)

(2007)

$\text{♩} = 66$  THEME (Clarinet)

Clarinet in B $\flat$   
[transposed]

Violin 1  
con sord. pizz. arco pizz. arco  
*p* *pp* *p* niente *p* *pp* *p* *n*

Violin 2  
con sord. pizz. arco pizz. arco  
*pp* *p* niente *p* *p* *ppp* *n* *p* *pp*

Viola  
con sord. pizz. arco  
*p* *pp* *p* niente *pp* *p*

Cello  
con sord. pizz. arco  
*pp* *p* niente *p* *n* *pp*

Piano  
*ppp*  
*pp*  
*sed. sempre*

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B $\flat$  Cl. 8 9  
*pp* *p* niente *p* *mp*

Vln. 1  
*p* *n* *pp* *p* *n* *p* *pp* *mf*

Vln. 2  
pizz. arco  
*n* *p* *pp* *p* *n* *p* *n* *mp* *n* *p*

Vla.  
*n* *p* *pp* *p* *n* *p* *n* *mp* *p*

Vlc.  
*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

Pno. 8 (8va) 9  
*ppp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp*  
*(sed.)* *p* *pp* *(pp)* *mp* *p*

13

B♭ Cl. *niente* *mp* *n*

Vln. 1 *n* *p* *n* *p* *pp* *mf* *n* *p*

Vln. 2 *n* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vla. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vlc. *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Pno. *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*

(Red.) *mp*

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18

B♭ Cl. *mp* *p* *mf* *ppp*

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf* *n* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco* *mp* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *p* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

(Red.) *p* *pp*

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23

24

B♭ Cl. *p* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *n*

Vln. 1 *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p* *mp* *n* (w/piano) *gliss. V* *gliss. V*

Vln. 2 *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *pp* *niente*

Vla. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *pp* *niente*

Vlc. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *pp* *niente* *arco V*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *mp* *p* (L.H. mute strings near end touching gently with finger tips) *mp* *p* *n* *gliss.* *gliss.* *(D)*

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31

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *n* *p* *acc.*

Vln. 1 *mf* *pp* *p* *n* *mf*

Vln. 2 *pp* *n* *pp* *n* *mf*

Vla. *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *gliss.*

Vlc. *senza sord.* *pizz.*

Pno. *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *acc.*

(Fed.)

**VAR. 1 (Viola)**  
♩=69

36

B♭ Cl. *mf* > *p* *mf* *pp*

Vln. 1 *mf* *n* *mf* *pp* *mf* *ord.* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *ord.* *7* *6* *5* *n* *mf* *sul pont.* *pp*

Vla. *senza sord.* *mf* *gliss.* *p* *mf*

Vlc. *(pizz.)* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

**VAR. 1 (Viola)**  
♩=69

36

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *7:8*

*Red. sempre* *mf*

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39

B♭ Cl. *mf* *n* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *n*

Vln. 1 *(5)* *n* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *ord.* *7* *6* *5* *n* *3*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *n* *pp* *sul pont.* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *f* *p* *mf* *f*

Vlc. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

39

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *8:6*

*(Red.)*

*(L.H. mute strings)* *8:6*

*R.H.* *mf* *pp* *8:6*

42 43

B♭ Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *n*

Vln. 1 *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *n* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *n* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Vla. *p* *ff* *pp* *ff* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

(*Red.*)

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46

B♭ Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

Vln. 1 *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *n* *mf* *ff*

Vla. *p* *f* *ff*

Vlc. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

(*Red.*)

49 *poco accel.*  $\text{♩} = 80$  Transition #1

B♭ Cl. *p* *pp* *p* *n*

Vln. 1 *col legno battuto* *mf* *pizz.* *pp* *p* *arco* *al punta flautando* *ppp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *mf* *arco (ord.)* *pp* *p* *n* *pp*

Vla. *p* *n*

Vcl. *p*

Pno. *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *ppp*

(Red.)

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55

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vln. 1 *senza sord.* *ppp* *p*

Vln. 2 *senza sord.* *ppp* *p*

Vla. *pp* *p*

Vcl. *arco III* *pp* *p*

Pno. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *loco*

(Red.)

*accelerando poco a poco...*

65 68

B♭ Cl. *pp* *pp < p > pp < p*

Vln. 1 *pp* *p* *mp > p* *mp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *pp < p* *mp*

Vla. *pp* *p* *mp*

Vlc. *pp* *pizz.* *p* *crescendo...* *mp*

65

Pno. *pp* *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf*

(Cello)

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*(accel.)*

75 80

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vlc. *mf > p*

*VAR. 2 (Cello)*

75 80

Pno. *pp* *p* *pp*

(Cello) *8va loco* *pp* *p* *pp*

*VAR. 2 (Cello)*

*8va*

*♯* *8va sempre*

84

B♭ Cl. *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. 1 *ppp* *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *p* *mf*

Vla. *ppp* *p* *mf*

Vlc. *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

arco on the string  
flautando

Pno. *mp* *mf*

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91 92

B♭ Cl. *pp* *mp* *ppp* *p* *mp* *ppp* *p*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *> p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p* *mf* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *p*

Pno. *p*

98

B♭ Cl. *pp mp pp p mf p f*

Vln. 1 *pp f p f*

Vln. 2 *pp f p f*

Vla. *pp f mp f*

Vlc. *pp mp mf f*

(S<sup>no</sup>)

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VAR. 3 (Piano)

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98

Pno. *pp f p f*

(*Loc.*)

104

B♭ Cl. *p n*

Vln. 1 *n*

Vln. 2 *n*

Vla. *n*

Vlc. *n*

continue at ♩=108 independently

VAR. 3 (Piano)

♩=66-76 rubato (follow piano)

104

Pno. *ppp (loco) pp ppp p*

(*Loc.*)

\* ad lib. repetitions of the arpeggio, with some variation.

♩ = 72-80 very flexible tempo, surging and pulling back ad lib.

108 110

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*n* *mf* *n*

*ppp* *f* *pp* *p*

*pp* *f* *ppp*

*mp* *3* *5* *n*

♩ = 72-80 very flexible tempo, surging and pulling back ad lib.

(8<sup>va</sup>)

108 110 *loco* 8<sup>va</sup>

Pno.

*ppp* *mp* *p sub.*

*ad lib.*

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111

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*n* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

*mp* *n*

*pp* *mp* *n*

111 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup> 9 10 9 9 9:8 9:6 11:6 *mp*

114

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

114 *loco*

Pno.

*p sub.*

*mf*

8va

continue similar figuration ad lib

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117

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

117 *loco*

Pno.

*mp sub.*

*p*

11

121 125

B♭ Cl. *tr*

Vln. 1 *pp* *mp* *n* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *mp* *n* *pp* *mf* *p* *mp*

Vla. *warm* *tr* *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp*

Vlc. *pp* *mp* *n* *p* *mp* *n*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *loco*

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127 128

B♭ Cl. *p* *fp* *pp* *n*

Vln. 1 *p* *mf* *gliss.* *p* *n* *p* *n*

Vln. 2 *pp* *mf* *gliss.* *p* *n* *con sord.*

Vla. *n* *pp* *mp* *n* *gliss.* *p* *n* *con sord.*

Vlc. *pp* *mf* *gliss.* *p* *n* *con sord.*

Pno. *f* *p sub.* *mp* *dim. poco a poco...*

♩=120 VAR. 4 (Violin 1)

135 7 143

B♭ Cl. *pp*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *pp flautando*

Vla. *pp flautando*

Vlc. *pp flautando*

♩=120 VAR. 4 (Violin 1)

135 7

Pno. *(dim.)* *(Sva)* *15<sup>ma</sup> tr* *niente*

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145 7 151

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno. *pp*

*poco  $\text{♩}$  ad lib.*  
*una corda*

154 159 7

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

*mf* < *f*

*92 +/- independently*

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162 167

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

*dim. poco a poco...*

*fp* < *ff* > *n*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*tre corde*

169 175

B♭ Cl. *(dim.)* *n*

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *accel.* *mp* *n*

Vln. 2 *crescendo poco a poco...*

Vla. *crescendo poco a poco...*

Vlc. *crescendo poco a poco...*

Pno. *mp*

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176

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1 *f* *ff* *mp* *sul pont.* *3*

Vln. 2 *(cresc.)* *mf* *dim. poco a poco...*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *mf* *dim. poco a poco...*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *mf* *dim. poco a poco...* *tr<sup>b</sup>*

Pno. *mf* *f* *(Red.)*

182

184

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

182

184

Pno.

(*Red.*)

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♩=120

Transition #2

185

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

185

Pno.

187

♩=120

Transition #2

(*Red.*)

*accelerando poco a poco...*

189

B♭ Cl. *mp* *pp*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *pizz.* *mp* *mp* *pp*

*accelerando poco a poco...*

189

Pno. *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

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*(accel.)*

196

*♩ = 72* VAR. 5 (Tutti)

B♭ Cl. *mp* *pp* *n* *p* *pp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vla. *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *pp*

*(accel.)*

196

*♩ = 72* VAR. 5 (Tutti)

Pno. *ff* *pp* *pp* *p* *p*

*(♩ ad lib.)*

*poco ♩ ad lib.*

B♭ Cl. *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vlc. arco *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pizz.*

Pno. *pp* *pp* *mp*

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B♭ Cl. *mf* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. 1 *f* *mf* *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf* *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vla. *f* *mf* *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vlc. *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *p*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

*poco* *ad lib.*



230

234 Wave #2

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf* *f*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *mf* *f*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *mf* *f*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *mf* *f*

*p* *f* *p* *f*

230

234 Wave #2

Pno.

(*Red.*)

*sfz*

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Wave #3  
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239

242

Wave #3

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*pp* *f* *p* *mf* *f*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p*

*sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p*

239

242

Wave #3

Pno.

(*Red.*)

*sfz*

*\* Red.*



Wave #5

264

B♭ Cl.

Musical notation for B♭ Clarinet, Wave #5, measures 264-270. Includes dynamics *f*, *ff*, *pp*, and *f*.

Vln. 1

Musical notation for Violin 1, Wave #5, measures 264-270. Includes dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *p sub.*

Vln. 2

Musical notation for Violin 2, Wave #5, measures 264-270. Includes dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *p sub.*

Vla.

Musical notation for Viola, Wave #5, measures 264-270. Includes dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *p sub.*

Vlc.

Musical notation for Violoncello, Wave #5, measures 264-270. Includes dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *p sub.*

Wave #5

264

Pno.

Musical notation for Piano, Wave #5, measures 264-270. Includes dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *p sub.*

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Wave #6

271

B♭ Cl.

Musical notation for B♭ Clarinet, Wave #6, measures 271-277. Includes dynamics *f* and *espressivo*.

Vln. 1

Musical notation for Violin 1, Wave #6, measures 271-277. Includes dynamics *f* and *mf*.

Vln. 2

Musical notation for Violin 2, Wave #6, measures 271-277. Includes dynamics *f* and *mf*.

Vla.

Musical notation for Viola, Wave #6, measures 271-277. Includes dynamics *f* and *mf*.

Vlc.

Musical notation for Violoncello, Wave #6, measures 271-277. Includes dynamics *f* and *mf*.

arpeggiation as before, like m. 108...

Wave #6

271

Pno.

Musical notation for Piano, Wave #6, measures 271-277. Includes dynamics *f* and *arpeggiation*.

Red.

279

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

*f* *mf*

(*Red.*)

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287

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

*f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *mp*

(*Red.*)

Wave #7 ("The 7th Wave")

295

297

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

Wave #7 ("The 7th Wave")

arpeggiation as before, like m. 108...

295

297

(Red.)

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(piano in foreground)

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304

313

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

(piano in foreground)

8va

304

313

(Red.)

314

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*f*

(change)

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

(S<sup>no</sup>)

314

Pno.

(*Red.*)

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323

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

(S<sup>no</sup>)

323

Pno.

329

*fff*

psalm clusters

increasingly wild ad lib. arpeggios using more and more pitches...

(*Red.*)

331

B♭ Cl. *ff* *fff*

Vln. 1 *ff* *fff*

Vln. 2 *ff* *fff*

Vla. *ff* *fff*

Vlc. *ff* *fff*

Pno. *ff* *fff*

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$\text{♩} = 104$

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337

B♭ Cl. *dim. poco a poco...* *ritardando...*

Vln. 1 *dim. poco a poco...* *ritardando...*

Vln. 2 *dim. poco a poco...* *etc. ad lib.* *gradually slower..toward gentle rocking...* *pp*

Vla. *dim. poco a poco...* *ritardando...*

Vlc. *dim. poco a poco...* *ritardando...* *niente*

Pno. *dim. poco a poco...* *ritardando...* *8va-*

VAR. 6 (Violin 2)

342  $\text{♩} = 66$  345

B♭ Cl. *pp mp n p*

Vln. 1 *pp p pp p pp p*

Vln. 2 *p pp pp pp mp*

Vla. *pp p pp p pp p*

Vlc. *p pp p pp p*

VAR. 6 (Violin 2)

342  $\text{♩} = 66$  345 (L.H. mute strings)

Pno. *pp mp mf p p*

(Red.)

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351

B♭ Cl. *pp ppp p pp*

Vln. 1 *pp ppp p mp n*

Vln. 2 *p mp p mp p mf dim. poco a poco...*

Vla. *pp ppp p mp n pp*

Vlc. *pp ppp mp pp*

(L.v.) I II

351 354

Pno. *mf ppp p mp pp*

(Red.) \* (L.H. mute strings)

B♭ Cl. *crescendo...* *p* *ppp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *crescendo...* *p* *pp*

Vln. 2 *n*

Vla. *crescendo...* *p* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

Vlc. *crescendo...* *p* *pp* *arco* *espressivo*

Pno. *crescendo...* *p*

(*sed.*)

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B♭ Cl. *crescendo poco a poco...* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 1 *ppp* *crescendo poco a poco...* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *crescendo poco a poco...* *p* *pp*

Vla. *crescendo poco a poco...* *arco* *mp* *pp*

Vlc. *ppp* *crescendo poco a poco...* *mp* *espressivo* *p* *pp* *pizz.* *I* *II*

Pno. *ppp* *crescendo poco a poco...* *mp* *p* *pp*

(*sed.*)

(L.H. mute strings)

(*sed.*)

*poco meno mosso  
ritardando al fine...*

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B♭ Cl. *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf* *sostenuto...* *p* *dim. poco a poco...*

Vln. 1 *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf* *sostenuto...* *mp* *n* *p*

Vln. 2 *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf* *pp* *pp* *mf* *mp* *dim. poco a poco...*

Vla. *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf* *sostenuto...* *mp* *dim. poco a poco...*

Vlc. *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf* *espressivo* *sostenuto...* *mp* *dim. poco a poco...*

Pno. *crescendo poco a poco...* *mf* *ord.* *mp* *pp*

(*And.*)

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*ritardando al fine...*

*And. sempre*

**for a printed score, order from Pro Nova Music**

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B♭ Cl. *niente*

Vln. 1 *dim. poco a poco...* *niente*

Vln. 2 *niente*

Vla. *niente*

Vlc. *niente*

Pno. *(L.H. mute strings)* *ppp* *mp* *niente*

*♩=50, independent, an echo of the beginning...(no rit.)*

(*And.*)

Duration: c. 15 minutes

MacDowell, Feb. 2006  
Djerassi, June 2007

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