

Ania Vu

I yearn, therefore I am
for string quartet

2019

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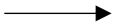


I yearn, therefore I am for String Quartet (2019)

Commissioned by the *Daedalus Quartet*

Duration: 12'

- | | | |
|------|--|----|
| I- | and what if we survive? / a może my przetrwamy? | I |
| II- | like the sea / jak morze | II |
| III- | ah, maybe we won't die anymore! / ach, może już nie umrzemy! | 15 |
| IV- | You / Ty | 20 |

Performance notes:

Ord	ordinario (normale)
Sp	sul ponticello
St	sul tasto
Msp	molto sul ponticello
Clb	col legno battuto
Clt	col legno tratto
Flaut.	flautando
Ric.	ricochet
	transition from one sound to another
	scratch tone
	spazzolare – fast horizontal bowing (between ord. and msp); creating a “whoosh” sound

Program notes:

I yearn, therefore I am for string quartet is inspired by a Polish poem “a może...” that I wrote in the summer of 2018. The narrative of the text is built on similar sounding words and homophones (może my/możemy/morze/umrzemy) and is about hope for the human survival. The poem inspired the music on multiple levels: (i) on a micro-level, specific pitches and techniques are assigned to specific words and syllables; (ii) on a meso-level, lengths of sections are either directly or inversely proportional to the lengths of verses (iii) finally, on a macro-level, the character of the music expresses the emotional meaning of the text. Although one can read the poem to enhance the listening experience of the music, both the poem and the music can exist as stand-alone works.

Ania Vu
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a może...

a
a mo-
a może
a może my
a może my mo-
a może my może-
a może my możemy
a może my możemy prze-
a może my przetrwamy?

jak morze, co zawsze było, jest i będzie
jak morze, co przeżyło huragan, burzę i deszcz,
przeszywając wzdłuż i w szerz
gąszcz szumiących brzoź i wierzb

ach, może już nie umrzemy!
może już nie umrzemy
że już nie umrzemy
już nie umrzemy
nie umrzemy
umrzemy
że my
my

my? Nie, nigdy! Nie my!
ale jak nie my, to kto?
jak morze,
morze nie może
jak morze, przetrwamy
przetrwamy
trwamy
my

ale jak to? Dlaczego? Z czego?

z tęsknoty
-no ty
to ty
Ty....

and what if

and
and what
and what if
and what if we
and what if we c
and what if we ca
and what if we can
and what if we can sur-
and what if we survive?

like the sea, that has always been, is, and will be
like the sea, that survived hurricanes, storms, and rains
piercing along and across
thickets of hissing birches and willows

ah, maybe we won't die anymore!
maybe we won't die
that we won't die
won't die anymore
we won't die
will die
that we
we

we? No, never! Not us!
but if not us, then who?
like the sea,
the sea cannot
like the sea, we'll survive
we'll survive
we last
we

but how? Why? From what?

from yearning
well you
it's you
You....

by Ania Vu (2018)

I yearn, therefore I am

I

and what if we survive?

Ania Vu

Still ♩ = 60

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

5

A

flaut.,
poco vib.

9

(touched)

12

touched → ord. → touched

touched → ord. → touched 2

ppp < p > ppp

pp

3

14

touched → ord. → touched

B

p < mp > pp

fp

f

mp < fp > mf

II

18

I

I ord. → touched

touched → ord. → touched

mf < p

mf

109

f *f* *p*

clt *p* 3 ord.

pp *pp*

sempre dim. *attacca*

II
like the sea

♩ = 90
solo, con sord.
con vib.

1

mf *espress.* *mp*

senza vib.

arco, senza vib.

pp *pp* *sempre pp* *p* *mp*

7

A

mf *f* *pp* *mp*

III

ah, maybe we won't die anymore!

$\text{♩} = 90$
(ord.)

1

pp *p > pp* *ppp* *p*

6 7 5 5

A

6

mp *ppp* *pp* *p* *p*

6 5

p flaut. *
ppp
flaut. *
ppp

10

mp *pp*

6 6 3

ppp *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

flaut. *
ppp *ppp*

*irregularly and sparsely add tremolo on the given note until m.16

B Ferocious ♩=120

Musical score for measures 17-21. The score is in 4/4 time and features four staves. The first staff (Violin I) starts with a *ppp* dynamic and a *toneless* instruction. The second staff (Violin II) also starts with *ppp* and *toneless*. The third staff (Viola) starts with *ppp* and *toneless*. The fourth staff (Cello/Double Bass) starts with *ppp* and *toneless*. The music transitions from *mf* to *ff, marcato* starting at measure 19. The *arco* instruction is present in the second staff from measure 19 onwards.

Musical score for measures 22-25. The score continues with four staves. The dynamics are marked *mf* and *ff* in all staves. The *arco* instruction is present in the second staff. The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages and chords.

Musical score for measures 26-29. The score continues with four staves. The section begins with a **C** section marker. The first staff (Violin I) has dynamics *sfz* and *fff*, with *pizz.* and *arco* markings. The second staff (Violin II) has dynamics *sfz* and *f*, with *pizz.* and *wide vib.* markings. The third staff (Viola) has dynamics *sfz* and *ff*. The fourth staff (Cello/Double Bass) has dynamics *sfz* and *ff*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic contrasts.

31

arco pizz. arco

sub.p

sub.p

ff

mf

mf

sub.p

pizz. arco

sub.p

ff

mf

34

cresc.

ff

ff

ff

cresc.

ff

cresc.

ff

cresc.

ff

D ♩ = 150

39

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

arco

sp

pp

pp, "mumbly"

E

43

arco
mf
mp
 pizz.
mf
mp
p
p

46

mp
mp

49

poco cresc.
sempre cresc.
mf
sp
sp
mf

52

f *arco* *ff* *ord.* *f* *ff* *ord.* *f* *ff*

G As fast as possible, messy!

55

pizz. *mf* *pizz.* *mf* *p* *clb.* *p*

59

p *pp* *p* *attaca*

IV You

♩=90 **Emphatic**

1

arco, con vib.

ffmf

fff

pizz.

fff

arco

fff

p

arco, con vib.

ff

mp

pizz.

fff

arco

p

pizz.

p

arco, con vib.

ff

don't break

ff

simile

p

9 **A**

mp

mf

f

con vib.

arco

p

mf

con vib.

arco

mf

f

arco

mf

f

arco

p

ff

mf

ff

f

pizz.

arco

f