

oceanograph

for flute, clarinet, percussion, violin and cello

alex rennie // 2024

Notation

Wind



Unpitched air sounds



Semi-pitched air sounds

Percussion



Bow for note value then let ring

Strings



Half bow overpressure



Full bow overpressure



Gradually alter bow pressure



Gradually shift bow position

Programme notes

Written as part of Sound and Music's *In the Making* program for resident ensemble, *standard issue*, over a three day period. Premiered on 2nd August 2024, Richard Steinitz Building, University of Huddersfield.

The theme of the programme was 'waves'. I decided to depict the ocean's boundlessness using waves and constant rotation to create chaos and uncertainty. I achieved this with techniques such as intervallic rotation to create continuous change, basing all pitch material off a single hexachord.

Due to the colossal scale of the ocean, trying to represent it in an objective way would be pointless, so I instead take contradictory subjective approaches; the piece is divided into two sections, inspired by opposing Romantic portrayals of the ocean as violent and sensitive.

The piece takes a human, shoreline, perspective: one instrument holds a melody, and the others, hold pitches as an analogue for objects sporadically washing up. In the second section I use more intimate, fragile orchestration such as blending air noises and high cello harmonics. The rigid pitch material is also altered, flattening one pitch to approximate the 7th partial, resulting in a resonant and ethereal timbre.

Listen to recording below:

<https://soundcloud.com/arennie/oceanograph>

oceanograph

Transposing Pitch

written for standard issue

Alex Rennie

7 Relentless ♩ = 66 **3** 4

Flute *fp* sempre senza vib. breathe as necessary *fp*

Clarinet in B♭ *fp* sempre senza vib. breathe as necessary *fp*

Bass Drum *p* *f* *p* *f*

Violin *fp* *fp* *fp*

Violoncello *ff* detached poco sul pont. sul pont.

6 **3** 4 **7** 8

Fl. *fp*

Cl. in B♭ *fp*

B. Dr. *f* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f*

Vln *fp*

Vc. ord. *fff* brutale

11 **4** 4 **7** 8

Fl. *fp*

Cl. in B♭

Sus. Cym. To Sus. Cym.

Vln *fff* sul pont. molto sul pont.

Vc. *fff* sul pont. *fff*

7

17

Fl. *flz.* *p* *molto* *ff* *fp*

Cl. in Bb *flz.* *p* *molto* *ff* *fp*

Sus. Cym. *p* *ff* 'choke

Vln *p* *molto* *ff* *fp* poco sul pont.

Vc. *fff* *ff* 3 4 5

22

Fl.

Cl. in Bb *fp*

Sus. Cym.

Vln

Vc. sul pont. ord. 3

26

4/4

Fl.

Cl. in Bb *molto*

Sus. Cym. *n* *ppp* pure tone *arco* *l.v.* *pp* non cresc. poss. harmonic gliss.

Vln *molto* *ppp* harmonic gliss. take sord.

Vc. 5 *ppp* sub. *n*

In stasis ♩ = 56

air sounds $\circ \rightarrow \circ \rightarrow \circ$

air sounds sim.

air sounds $\circ \rightarrow \circ \rightarrow \circ$

air sounds sim.

To Vib.

Vib. arco

sempre **ppp** non cresc. poss. sempre con Ped.

take sord.

con sord.

molto sul pont.

ppp fragile

pp

IV II III IV II IV

ppp fragile

37

Fl.

Cl. in Bb

ord.

ppp without accents

Vib.

Vln

molto sul pont.

ppp

IV II IV III IV

n

45

Fl.

Cl. in Bb

Vib.

Vln

n

ord.

ppp

molto sul pont.

IV

\sharp

52

Fl. *ord.*

Cl. in Bb *air sounds* *n*

Vib.

Vln. *b* *tr* *ord.* *n*

Vc. *ppp without accents*

59

Fl. *air sounds* *n*

Cl. in Bb *air sounds sim.*

Vib.

Vln. *n*

Vc. *IV* *poco sul pont.*

64

Fl. *ord.* *whistle tone*

Cl. in Bb *ord.* *ppp shaky*

Vib. *sim.* *pp* *To Sus. Cym.* *Sus. Cym. arco* *ppp non cresc. poss.*

Vln. *harmonic gliss.* *n* *ppp*

Vc. *n* *ppp*