

gegenschein

for solo violin

Commissioned by Piotr Szewczyk for Violin Futura

Clifton Callender

2014

Clifton Callender

gegenschein, for solo violin, 2009

Commissioned by Piotr Szewczyk for *Violin Futura III*

Duration ~ 4'

Program notes—



The gegenschein, or counter shine, is a very faint brightening of the night sky centered on the point directly opposite the sun. It is a very indirect source of light—sunlight reflecting off of the very fine particles that make up interplanetary dust. This is an appropriate metaphor for the kind of sound world I have tried to create using a solo violin, a work consisting mostly of very fast arpeggiated and tremolo-like figures involving natural

harmonics. Due to the speed of these figures, the harmonics only have time to partially sound, yielding a rapid succession of very faint overtones. The result is a fragile yet brilliant flickering of sound, mostly quiet and diffuse yet played with great intensity and aggression. My thanks to Piotr Szewczyk who commissioned and premiered the work as part of his *Violin Futura* project.

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appassionato ma fragile e luminoso

* Dashed slurs indicate legato bowing; *ad lib.* change of bows.

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2 $\text{♩} = 96$ *molto accel.* *presto poss.* $\text{♩} = 144$ *ord.* *s. p.* *ord.* *s. p.*

37 *f* *mf* *poco* *mf* *f*

II $\text{♩} = 96$ *molto accel.* *presto poss.* *rit.*

41 *mf* *f* *sub. pp* *f* *possibile*

0 0

46 $\text{♩} = 96$ *p*

52 *p* *mp* *p* *simile* *mp* *p* *mf*

55 *mp* *f*

56 *mf* *ff*

57 *f* *ff*

III II

60

fff ————— *f*
possibile

♩ = 96 *molto accel.* *presto poss.* ————— *rit.* ————— ♩ = 60 *pochiss. accel.* *pochiss. rit.*

ord. ————— *s. p.* ————— ord.

61

sub. *pp* ————— *f* ————— *p* ————— *poco*

possibile

poco accel. *poco rit.* *accel.* *rit.* *più accel.* *più rit.* ♩ = 60 *m o l t o*

69

p ————— *mp p* ————— *mf p* ————— *f p*

a c c e l e r a n d o ————— *presto poss.* ♩ = 132

73

ff ————— *simile*

x 7

rit. ————— *molto rit. al* ♩ = 144 ♩ = 144

77

f ————— *sub. mf*

possibile

molto accel. ————— *presto poss.*

80

f ————— *possibile*

♩. = 112

82

subito p

85

subito p

88

8va--

92

8va--

93

pp p pp

96

p poco

97

p

98

ppp p ppp pp