



KIAN RAVAEI

**CALIFORNIA
SUITE**

for flute and piano

ÆI edition

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(2021)

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III. Swainson's Hawk	12
IV. California Black Rail	16

ÆI edition

*Commissioned by Sleight Ensemble
with support from InterMusic SF.*

PROGRAM NOTE

California Suite memorializes the songs of endangered California birds. The first movement mimics the flowing *cheedle cheedle chee* of Least Bell's Vireo, which is characterized by its question-and-answer structure. The song of Belding's Savannah Sparrow, which inspired the second movement, begins with a few sparse notes which gradually accelerate into a buzz. The third movement is a series of melodies that continuously sink in pitch, mirroring the descending call of Swainson's Hawk. The California Black Rail's song, which is featured in the final movement, comprises three quick staccato chirps: two high and one low.

Each of these birdsongs suggested to me a particular Baroque dance — an allemande, courante, sarabande, and gigue respectively — making this work a modern interpretation of the Baroque dance suite. My hope is that California's natural sounds course through these movements, just as the French musical style of Bach's day courses through his French Suites.

As a young Boy Scout from Southern California, I experienced the diversity of California's wilderness firsthand, camping among the wildlife of Death Valley, Yosemite, and Catalina Island. In the face of impending climate catastrophe, I find myself revisiting the Boy Scout mantra to "leave things better than you found them." Just as these four birds and their beautiful music are threatened by an increasingly inhospitable environment, so too will humans — whether residing in California or elsewhere — face existential consequences unless we prioritize our ecosystem.

—Kian Ravaei

duration ca. 14'

to Sleight Ensemble

CALIFORNIA SUITE

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(2021)

I. Least Bell's Vireo

Grazioso, simply flowing ♩ = ca. 84

The musical score is written for Flute and Piano in 5/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Grazioso, simply flowing' with a quarter note equal to approximately 84 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Measure 1: The Flute part begins with a half rest, followed by a quarter note G4 (p), then a half note A4-B4 (mf), and a quarter note G4 (p). The Piano part has a half rest in the right hand and a half note G3 (p) in the left hand.

Measure 2: The Flute part has a half note A4-B4 (mf), a quarter note G4 (p), and a half note F#4 (pp). The Piano part has a half rest in the right hand and a half note G3 (p) in the left hand.

Measure 3: The Flute part has a half note F#4 (pp), a quarter note E4 (p), and a half note D4 (p). The Piano part has a half rest in the right hand and a half note G3 (p) in the left hand.

Measure 4: The Flute part has a half note D4 (p), a quarter note C4 (p), and a half note B3 (p). The Piano part has a half rest in the right hand and a half note G3 (p) in the left hand.

Measure 5: The Flute part has a half note B3 (p), a quarter note A3 (p), and a half note G3 (p). The Piano part has a half rest in the right hand and a half note G3 (p) in the left hand.

The score includes dynamic markings (p, mf, pp) and articulation (accents, slurs). The Piano part is marked 'p sempre legato'. The Flute part has a 'Red.' (Reduction) line below it.

7

mf *p*

10

rit. a tempo

mf *pp* *p*

mf *pp* *p*

Red.

12

mf *p* *pp* *p*

pp

Red.

14

mf *p* *pp* *p* *p espr.*

Red.

27 **rit.** **a tempo**

(Led.) *fp* *p*

29 **rit.** **a tempo**

(Led.) *mf* *p*

31 **rit.** **a tempo**

(Led.) *fp* *p*

33 **rit.** **a tempo** **rit.**

(Led.) *f* *p*

35 **a tempo** **rit.** **a tempo** **rit.**

mf *p* *p a piacere*

mf *p espr.* *mf* *p sub.*

40 **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 92

pp *p*

p sotto voce

43 **rit.**

(flz.) (ord.)

pp *p* *pp*

8va

pp

Red.

II. Belding's Savannah Sparrow

Con moto, scherzando $\text{♩} = 72-76$ (ben misurato)

(grace notes always before the beat)

Flute

Piano

p *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

ff *sf* *f*

mf

ff *sff* *sff* *sff* *sff*

ff *sff* *sff* *sff* *sff*

8ba_ _

9

f

11

mf

f

13

mf

f

16

f

8va

f

sf p sub.

19

p

22

p *p staccatiss.* *pp dolce*

25

p cant. *mf*

28

p cant. *p* *mf*

rit. molto a tempo

31 *f* *ff* *p*

34 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

38 *f* *sf* *sf p sub.*

42 (grace notes always before the beat) *sf* *p* *f* *p sub. sf* *p*

45

8va

f

mf

47

8va

f

mf

49

(non rit.)

f

ff

pp dolce

51

(8)

p dolce

54

p cant.

(8)

p

57

mf *f* *ff*

mf *f* *ff*

molto rit.

a tempo

61

ff *sff* *sff* *sff* *sff*

ff *sff* *sff* *sff* *sff*

8ba...

64

sf *p* *f* *ff*

p *f* *ff*

8

(grace notes always before the beat)

16

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

(grace notes always before the beat)

mf *p sub.* *p cant., con rubato*

*) \searrow = expressive descending lip bend of a minor second or less as the note is released (not too early).

23

p cant., con rubato

30

f

36

p

pp sub.

p

pp

p

42

mf

p poco sf sempre

mf

p sub.

49

p cant.

p

rit.

Pesante (l'istesso tempo)

55

f

ff

f con bravura

59

ff

(Ped.)

64

mf *ff* *mf sub.* 14

8ba

68

ff *mf sub.* *rit.* *p*

72

a tempo *rit.* *a tempo* *gradually slow down tremolo (a piacere)* *(lip bend)*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *p sub.* *pp* *8ba* *Red.* *Red.*

IV. California Black Rail

Vivace e giocoso ♩ = 138

Flute

Piano

5

8^{va}

ff *f*

ff

f poco marc.

9

p *p sub.* *p sub.*

(8)⁷

p *p sub.* *p sub.*

13

f *f*

8^{va}

The musical score is for a piece titled "IV. California Black Rail" in 12/8 time, marked "Vivace e giocoso" with a tempo of 138 beats per minute. It features two staves: Flute and Piano. The Flute part begins with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and a crescendo to forte (f). The Piano part starts with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and includes an 8va section. The score is divided into four systems, with measures 5, 9, and 13 marked. Dynamics include ff, f, p, p sub., and f. The Piano part includes an 8va section and a (8)7 marking.

16 *tr* *p leggiero* *8va* *p leggiero* (♩ = ♩ sempre)

21 *ff*

27 *p* *8va* *p sub.*

32 *f* *p* *f* *p*

35

40

46

52

56

p *f*

f *p sub.*

8_{ba}

60

p *f* *mf* *f* *p sub.* *ff*

f *p sub.* *f* *p sub.* *ff*

8_{ba} 8_{ba}

67

p legato *mf*

p legato (*p*)

Red. 2 2 2 2

71

mf *p* *mf*

p (*p*)

2 2 2 2

75

mf *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

2 2 2 2

79

cresc. poco a poco

2 2 2 2

83

f *p* *f* *p*

2

87

2

93

f *pp sub.*

f *pp sub.*

rit.

a tempo

100

ff

ff

ff

Red.

Senza misura, cadenza

rit.

107 Senza misura, cadenza rit.

f *p*

(Led.)

108 **Tempo I**

108 **Tempo I**

p leggiero

8^{va}

p leggiero

114

ff

6/16

119

f poco marc.

12/16

122

p

8va

125

ff

8ba

ff