

clouds that veil

voice, accordion, trombone, electronics

Yannis Kyriakides [167]

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voice (mezzo soprano), accordion, trombone, electronics

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Duration: 7'20"

Commissioned by New Music Now for Dag van de Componist (Amsterdam) 2024.

Premiere 15th June 2024, Amsterdam Central Station.

Performed by Aurelie Lierman, Claudio Jacomucci, Sebasitaan Kemner.

This work is a setting of the poem 'Mutability' (1885) by Percy Byssche Shelley. It was one of the inspirations behind the larger scale multimedia piece with the name 'Mutability' that will be performed later in the month in the Holland Festival.

For this piece, I set the text and music against field recordings made in Amsterdam on several nights in May. These recordings are sped up by 60 times (so that hours are relative to minutes). Hours of different nights with 7 different resonant pitches are triggered at the points given in the score.

Mutability ["We are as clouds that veil the midnight moon"]

We are as clouds that veil the midnight moon;
How restlessly they speed and gleam and quiver,
Streaking the darkness radiantly! yet soon
Night closes round, and they are lost for ever:—

Or like forgotten lyres whose dissonant strings
Give various response to each varying blast,
To whose frail frame no second motion brings
One mood or modulation like the last.

We rest—a dream has power to poison sleep;
We rise—one wandering thought pollutes the day;
We feel, conceive or reason, laugh or weep,
Embrace fond woe, or cast our cares away:—

It is the same!—For, be it joy or sorrow,
The path of its departure still is free;
Man's yesterday may ne'er be like his morrow;
Nought may endure but Mutability.

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Yannis Kyriakides

for voice, accordion, trombone and electronics

lyrics: 'Mutability' by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1885)

$\text{♩} = 85$

mf

Voice

We are

Accordion

mf

Trombone

harmonic gliss.

Electronics

mf

Resonance - Eb4 (311 Hz)

24 hour soundscape (x60)

①

V

as clouds that veil

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

16

V

the mid - night moon;

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

Res

F4 (349Hz)

②

22

V

How rest - less - ly they speed

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

26

V

and gleam and qui - ver, -

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

34

V

Strea - king the dark - ness ra - di - ant - ly! yet

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

39

V

soon Night clo - ses round, _

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

45

V

and they are lost

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

51

V for e - ver: Or like

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec. Res G^4 (392 Hz)

60

V for - got - ten lyres whose dis - so - nant strings

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

66

V Give va - ri - ous res - ponse

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

71

V to each va - ry - ing blast,

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

77 *mp*

V To whose frail frame no se - cond

Acc. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Elec. 77 Res $\text{G}\#4$ (415 Hz)

84

V mo - tion brings One mood

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

90

V or mo - du - la - tion like the last.

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

99

V *p* We rest a dream has po - wer to

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

107

V poi - son sleep; We

Acc.

Tbn. circular breathing (or take ad lib breaks) *mp*

Elec.

114

V
rise one wan-de-ring thought poll-

Acc.

Tbn.
add voice slowly fluctuating around B

Elec.

121

V
utes the day; We feel con-

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.
Res A4 (440 Hz)

129

V
ceive or rea-son,

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

134 *mf*

V laugh [#]or weep, Em - brace

Acc. *mf*

Tbn. *mp*

Elec.

141

V fond woe, or cast our

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec.

146

V cares a - way:-

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec. Res

154 *f*

V It is _____ the same!— For, be it

Acc. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Elec. 154 B4 (494 Hz)

159

V joy or so - rrow, _____ The path

Acc.

Tbn.

Elec. 159

164

V of its de - par - ture _____ still _____ is free;

Acc. 164 (8^{va})

Tbn. 164

Elec. 164

171 *mf*

V
Man's yes - ter - day may ne'er be like his mor - row; _

Acc. *mf* *8va*

Tbn. 171

Elec. *mf* 171 Res $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ ⑦

176

V
Nought may en - dure but Mu - ta - bi - li - ty. _

Acc. 176 *8va*

Tbn. 176

Elec. 176 C#5 (554 Hz) $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

182

V

Acc. 182 *8va*

Tbn. 182

Elec. 182 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$