BE-FORE

THE

OCE-AN

WAS

Evan L. Snyder

BEFORE THE OCEAN WAS

My mind is bent to tell of bodies changed to new forms.
Ye gods, who have wrought these changes,
breathe upon this my undertaking,
and bring down my song in unbroken strains
from the world's beginning unto the present time.

Before the ocean was, or the land,
or the sky that hangs over all,
there was in nature but one visage,
which is now known as chaos:
a rough unordered mass of things,
lifeless bulk and warring atoms
of discordant elements heaped as one…
No form of things remained the same;
all were at odds with one another.

Some god—or kindlier Nature—composed this strife;
They rent asunder land from sky, and sea from land,
and separated the ethereal heavens from the clouds…
Each they set in their own place,
and bound them all fast in harmony.

- Ovid, from Metamorphosis, lines 1-25
(*translation adapted from Frank Justus Miller*)

⁕⁕⁕⁕⁕⁕

for large string orchestra

violin I

violin II

viola

violoncello

double bass

in complement of 12.12.10.10.8

duration: approx. 7 minutes

Before the Ocean Was

Ovid's Metamorphosis: Book I, lines 1-25

Evan L. Snyder

A little slowly at first, with a sense of freedom (♩=76)

1 Violin I — solo — *p* — *molto esp.* — *mp* — 3 — 3 — *mp* — *p*

altri — con sord., div. — *pp*

Violin II — con sord., div. — *ppp* — 3 — *ppp*

Vla. — con sord., half — *pp* — div. — 3

1 Violoncello — solo — 3 — *mp* — *esp.* — *mf* — 3 — 3 — *mf* — 3

altri — con sord., div. — *pp* — *p*

Contrabass — con sord., half — *p*

1 2 3 4 5 6

poco rall. . . . . a tempo (♩=76) **molto stringendo . . . . . a tempo (♩=76)** **poco rall. . . . . A little slower, more freely (♩=72)**

Vln. I 1 — **A** — solo — 3 — *p dolce* — *p (sub.)* — 3 — 3 — 3 — *pp*

Vln. II — *p* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

solo — *mp* — *mf* — *f* — *mp* — *dolce*

Vla. altri — *mp* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

1 — *mp* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

Vc. — unis. — div.

altri — *mp* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

Cb. — *mp* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

rall.

Vln. I 1 — 3 — 3 — *ppp* — (solo) — *pp*

Vln. II — *ppp* — *ppp*

1 — solo — *p*

Vla. altri — *pp* — *pp*

1 — solo — *p*

Vc. altri — div. (2-4) — (5-7) — (8-10) — *pp*

Cb. — (half) — *pp*

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

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B **Tempo I (♩=76)**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

long

solo, senza sord.

con sord.

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C **In strict time (♩.=108)**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

senza sord.

senza sord., change bow freely

molto

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28 29 30 31 32 33 34

D

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

senza sord.

molto

Not Permissible Only

35 36 37 38 39 40 41

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

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42 43 44 45 46 47 48

E

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

49 50 51 52 53 54 55

For personal Only

F

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

NOT FOR SALE

56 57 58 59 60 61 62

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

sul pont.

For Perusal Only

63 64 65 66 67 68 69

G

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

sul pont.

ord.

molto

For Perusal Only

70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

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78 79 80 81 82 83 84

H

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

poco sul pont.

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85 86 87 88 89 90 91

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Score Reprint

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

For Personal Study Only

J

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Not Perusal Only

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

For Publication

K

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

gliss.

piu f

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122 123 124 125 126 127 128

L

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

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129 130 131 132 133 134 135

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

For Perusal Only

136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143

M

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

solo (at first)

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144 145 146 147 148 149 150

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Rehearsal Only

151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158