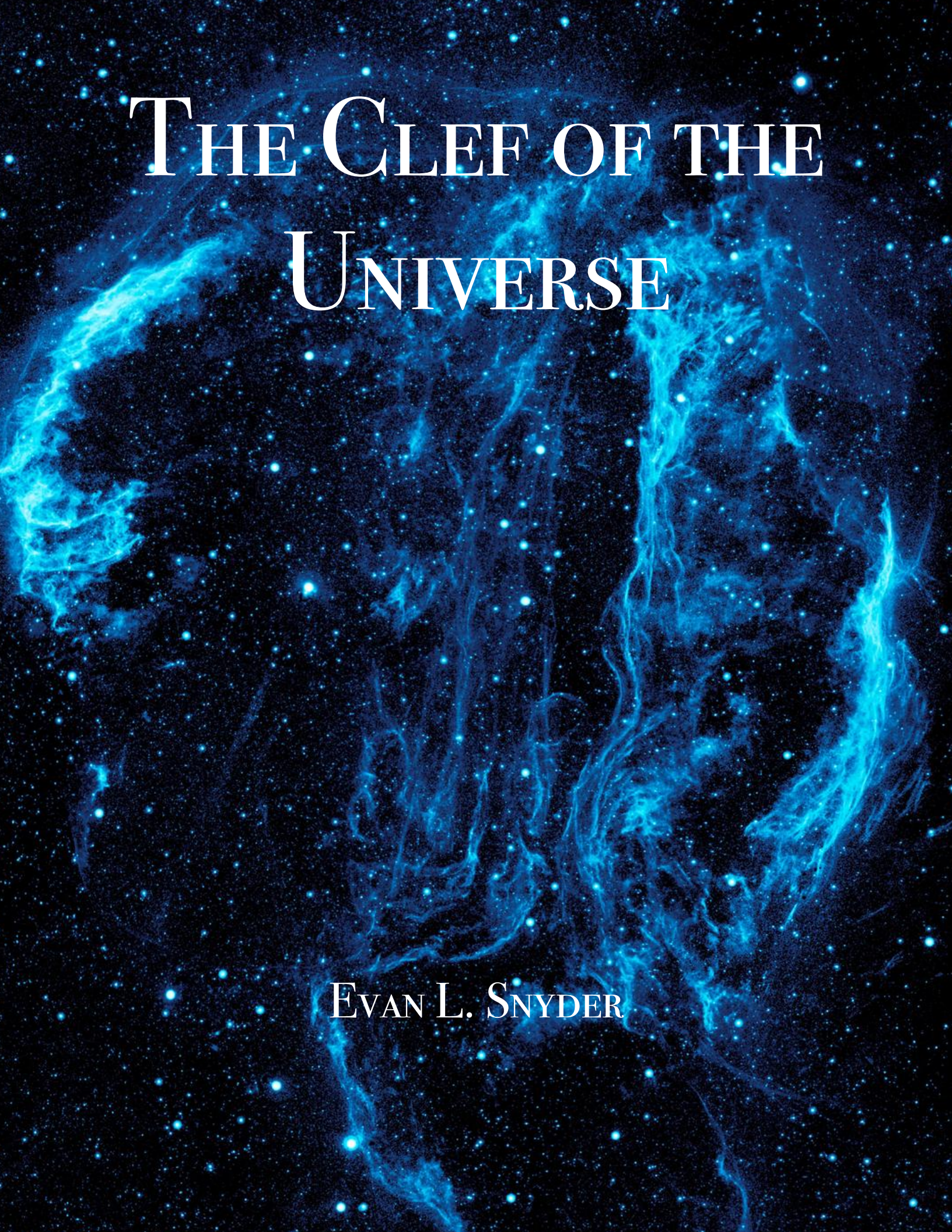


The background of the entire image is a deep space scene featuring a complex, glowing blue and white filamentary structure, likely representing the cosmic web or a nebula. This structure is set against a dark, star-filled background. The filaments are wispy and interconnected, forming a large, irregular shape that dominates the center of the frame. Numerous small, bright white stars are scattered throughout the dark space, some appearing as sharp points of light and others as slightly blurred discs.

THE CLEF OF THE UNIVERSE

EVAN L. SNYDER

EVAN L. SNYDER

THE CLEF OF THE UNIVERSE

FULL SCORE

The story of The Clef of the Universe is one of discovery: of what has been and what could be. The action follows the crew of an alien archeological mission, from planet Xale'ja, who crash land on an unfamiliar and lifeless world. Upon discovering the lost vestiges of an ancient civilization on this alien world, the ship's excavationist, Oc'rys, and their fellow crew members work to learn about the unfamiliar people of this lost society. As they uncover the truth behind the destruction of life on the planet, they themselves get caught up in the same danger and are forced to contend with the dark realities of our universe.

INSTRUMENTATION

2 Violins
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

Piano

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Captain Tarq' (**taʁk**) - Contralto or Bass-baritone/Bass

A seasoned Stellar Argosy captain, Tarq' is a focused and efficient leader, ever-capable of balancing the expertise of his crew members with his own considerable experience. Notably stoic, they maintain a certain personal distance from their crew, to preserve both their own authority and to model the kind of conduct that they prefer to see on their ship.

Artificer Q'rench (**kʁɛntʃ**) - Soubrette/light lyric soprano or light lyric tenor

A brilliant technology expert, inventor and mechanic, Q'rench has focused their pursuits on the revival of ancient technologies. While always excited to tackle any and all things machine, and happy to dabble in any of several other fields of advanced science, Q'rench is a much less assertive social creature. They function efficiently in their role as ship's Artificer, but rarely converse with the others about anything besides their duties aboard the ship.

Excavationist Oc'rys (**o-ʃʁis**) - Lyric mezzo-soprano or Lyric baritone

The ship's excavationist, resident expert on alien languages and cultures, Oc'rys is deeply passionate about the preservation of alien history and experience. Participating in this Argosy archeological mission is a dream come true for them and truly the perfect fit for their talents. Still early in their career, Oc'rys's intensity in the pursuit of discovery is occasionally at odds with the Captain's structured and by-the-book operating procedure, but despite this, Oc'rys and Captain Tarq' share a considerable mutual respect.

Captain Ardwa (**aʁ-dwa**)/Prologue - Full lyric soprano or Full lyric tenor

An unknown individual to the Xale'jan crew, Ardwa is in many ways a typical example of the Avi — polite, private, and rather aloof. Seemingly good-natured, Ardwa carries themselves with a considerable air of experience.

Prelude & Prologue

Evan L. Snyder

Spacious ($\text{♩}=56$) **rall.** **Freely** ($\text{♩}=48$) **Tempo I** ($\text{♩}=56$) **poco rall.**

Artificer Q'rench
Captain Ardwa
Excavationist Oc'ry's
Captain Tarq'
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass
Piano

mp pp Ah Ah Ah Ah
mp pp Ah Ah Ah Ah
mp pp Ah Ah Ah Ah
mp pp Ah Ah Ah Ah
mp ff esp. mp dolce
sul pont. ord. p ppp mp ff mp
sul tasto ord. p ppp mp f p mp ppp
p ppp mp f p mp ppp
ff p
f

ad lib.

*Pitches with the square notehead notation should be sung at absolute pitch, regardless of which octave the remainder of the role is being sung in. Singers are also welcome to exchange parts here, for easier vocal production or balance of harmony.

a tempo (♩=56)

rall. **Freely** (♩=48)

Tempo I (♩=56)

poco rall. . . .

8

Q'r. *mp* *pp*
Ah

Ard. *mp* *pp*
Ah

Oc'. *mp* *pp*
Ah

Tarq. *mp* *pp*
Ah

Vln. I *p* *ppp* *mp* *ff* *mp*
sul pont. → ord.

Vln. II *ppp* *mp* *ff* esp. *mp dolce*

Vla. *p* *ppp* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *ppp*
sul tasto → ord.

Vc. *p* *ppp* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *ppp*

Cb. *ff* *p*

Pno. *f*

a tempo (♩=56) **rall.** **Freely** (♩=48) **(lo stesso tempo)** **rall.**

15

Q'r. Ah

Ard. Ah

Oc'. Ah

Tarq. Ah

Vln. I *ppp* *mp* *ff esp.* *mp dolce*

Vln. II *sul pont.* *p* *ppp* *mp* *ord.* *ff* *mp*

Vla. *sul tasto* *p* *ppp* *mp* *ord.* *f* *p* *mp* *p*

Vc. *p* *ppp* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *p*

Cb. *ff* *p*

Pno. *f*

With a feeling of stillness ($\text{♩}=40$)Slowly, at a distance ($\text{♩}=48$)

22

Vln. I *sempre ppp*

Vln. II *ppp* *sempre ppp*

Vla. *sempre ppp* *molto sul pont*

Vc. *sempre ppp* *molto sul pont*

Cb. *pp*

Pno. *ppp* *repeating freely, slowly at first but accelerating*
con Ped.

28 *sul tasto* **rall.**

Vln. I *emerging from the ether* *pp distant* *molto sul pont*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Cb.

Pno. *pp* *very fast, maintaining a constant speed* *sim.* *slowing considerably*

30 **a tempo** (♩=48)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Pno.

sim.

ppp

ppp

pp

as before, beginning slowly,
but accelerating even faster

very fast, maintaining a constant speed

32 **stringendo**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Pno.

p

non dim.

molto sul pont

pp

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

sim., not slowing at all

sim.

34 **molto rall.** **a tempo** (♩=48)

Vln. I *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *ppp*

Vc. *mf* *p* *ppp*

Cb. *mf* *p* *ppp*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *ppp*

sim. slowing considerably as before, but never reaching the same speed

36 **rall.** **Tempo I** (♩=56) **rall.**

Ard. *mf* with a sense of wonder 3
The u - ni - verse is an un - be -

Vln. I *sul tasto* *pp* *ppp* *ord.* *mp*

Vln. II *ord.* *mp*

Vla. *pp* *ord.* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *ord.* *mp*

Cb.

Pno. *pp*
not too fast slowing down

Freely, broad (♩=40) **a tempo** (♩=56) **poco rall.** **a tempo** (♩=56) **rall.**

41 *f* *mf* *mp*

Ard. lie - va-bly vast ex - panse. For a sin - gle ray of light to cross from

Vln. I *fmp* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *fmp* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *fmp* *mp*

Vc. *fmp* *mp*

Cb. *ff* *p*

Pno. *f*

Ped. ad lib.

Less broadly ($\text{♩}=48$) a tempo ($\text{♩}=56$) a tempo ($\text{♩}=56$) Broadly ($\text{♩}=40$)

poco rall. **rall.**

Ard. *f* *ff*
one edge to the o - ther, it takes near - ly one hun - dred bil - lion years.

Vln. I *fmp* *mf* *mp* *fmp*

Vln. II *fmp* *mf* *mp* *fmp*

Vla. *fmp* *mp* *fmp*

Vc. *fmp* *mp* *fmp*

Cb. *ff* *p* *ff*

Pno. *f* *f*

The musical score is for a vocal and instrumental piece. The vocal part (Ard.) is in 3/4 time, starting at measure 46. The tempo markings are 'Less broadly (♩=48)', 'a tempo (♩=56)', 'a tempo (♩=56)', and 'Broadly (♩=40)'. The dynamics are *f*, *ff*, *fmp*, *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. The instrumental parts include Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Cb., and Pno. The Pno. part is in 3/4 time and features a complex texture with many notes. The Vln. I and II parts are in 3/4 time and feature a complex texture with many notes. The Vla. part is in 3/4 time and features a complex texture with many notes. The Vc. part is in 3/4 time and features a complex texture with many notes. The Cb. part is in 3/4 time and features a complex texture with many notes.

Stillness again, at first (♩=40)

rall.

stringendo

52

Ard. *mf* *p* *ppp* *mp* *mf cresc.* *fp* *3*

But, with - in that vast - ness: va - ri -

Vln. I *mf* *p* *ppp* *mp* *fp* *3*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *ppp* *mp* *fp* *3*

Vla. *p* *ppp* *mp* *fp* *3*

Vc. *p* *ppp* *mp* *fp* *3*

Cb. *p* *ff* *mp*

Pno. *f*

sul pont. *ord.*

sul tasto *ord.*

For Perusal

(♩=80) **molto rall.** (♩=40) **Quick, in one** (♩=60)

Ard. *ff* *mp dolce*
a - tion_ that de - fies i - ma - gi - na - tion.

Vln. I *gliss.* *ffmp* *pp dolce*

Vln. II *gliss.* *ffmp* *pp* *mp*

Vla. *gliss.* *ffmp* *pp* *poco più f*

Vc. *gliss.* *ffmp* *pp* *p*

Cb. *ff* *pp*

Pno. *ff*

For Perusal Only