

The Clef of the Universe

Aria Excerpt - “On the beach at night alone...”



Evan L. Snyder

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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, the crew members learn things about themselves and about the universe that they never expected—and in so learning, find that it may not be possible to escape this planet with their newfound knowledge... or their lives...

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Cover photo provided through the NASA Image and Video Library. 2012 photograph of the Cygnus Loop Nebula.

On the beach at night alone...

Aria for Lyric Soprano or High Lyric Baritone
from *The Clef of the Universe*

Walt Whitman

Evan L. Snyder

Spacious, a little eerie (♩=72)

Excavationist Oc'rys

Piano

mp gentle, sweetly

pp

p sharp, uneasy

pp

Red.

Pno.

mp

mf

p

pp

Red.

Exc.

mp freely

On the beach at night a - lone, As the old mo-ther sways her to and fro

Pno.

mp

p (sub.)

Red.

15

Exc. *p* contemplative

sing-ing her husk - y song,

Pno. *p* *mp* *p* (sub.)

pp

8va

19

Exc. *ff*

As I watch'd the bright stars shin - ing,

f

As I watch'd the bright stars shin - ing, I think a thought of the

Pno. *mp* *molto* *ff* *f*

Red.

24

Exc. *p* gently

Slow, steady (♩=56)

clef of the un - i-ver-ses and of the fu - ture.

Pno. *ff* *p espr.*

Red. ad lib.

Exc. 28 *p* A

Pno. *pp* *p*

Exc. 31 *pp* *p* All

vast si - mi - li - tude in - ter-locks all,

Exc. 34 *mp* *p* poco rall.

spheres, grown, un-grown, small, large, suns, moons, pla - nets,

Pno. *mp* *mp*

a tempo (♩=56)

Exc. 37 *mp* *p*
All dis-tan-ces of place how - e - ver

Pno. *mp* *piu p*

Exc. 40 *mp*
wide, All dis-tan-ces of time,

Pno. *pp* *mp*

Exc. 43 *mp* **accel.**
all in-a-ni-mate forms, All souls, all li-ving

Pno. *p* *mp*

poco rall.

Exc. 46 *mf*

bo-dies though they be e-ver so diff'r - ent, or in diff'r - ent worlds,

Pno. *mf* *meno f* *molto* *mf*

Exc. 49 *f* *a tempo* (♩=56) *rall.*

All ga-seous, wat - e - ry, veg' ta - ble, mi - ne - ral pro - ces - ses, the fish - es, the brutes, All

Pno. *f* *fp* *rall.*

Exc. 51 *ff* *Slow* (♩=40) *mf* *mp*

na - tions, co - lours, bar - ba - ri - sms, ci - vi - li - za - tions, lan - gua - ges,

Pno. *ff* *mf* *mp*