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* — *mp* — *p*

altri

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

Vla. — con sord., half — *pp* — div.

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

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)**

A

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

Vln. II — *p* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

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

Vla.

altri — *mp* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

1

Vc.

altri — unis. — *mp* — *fp* — div. — *mf* — *pp*

Cb. — *mp* — *fp* — *mf* — *pp*

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

rall. . . . . .

Vln. I 1 — *ppp*

Vln. II — *ppp* — *ppp*

1 — solo — *p*

Vla.

altri — *pp* — *pp*

1 — solo — *p*

Vc.

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

Cb. — (half) — *pp*

(solo) — *pp*

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

© 2021 Evan L. Snyder

B **Tempo I (♩=76)**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

long

solo, senza sord.

con sord.

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

C **In strict time (♩.=108)**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

senza sord.

senza sord., change bow freely

28 29 30 31 32 33 34

D

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

35 36 37 38 39 40 41

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

E

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

49 50 51 52 53 54 55

F

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

56 57 58 59 60 61 62

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

63 64 65 66 67 68 69

G

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

78 79 80 81 82 83 84

H

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

poco sul pont.

ord.

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107

J

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

108 109 110 111 112 113 114

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

115 116 117 118 119 120 121

K

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

122 123 124 125 126 127 128

L

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

piu f

ff

mf

mp dolce

mp

f p fp

ff p fp

mf p fp

gliss.

129 130 131 132 133 134 135

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143

M

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

solo (at first)

144 145 146 147 148 149 150

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158