

Sea Change

Tom Morrison
2018

for string quartet

Performance Notes



Arrows pointing to “sul. pont” or “norm.” indicate gradual movement to/from the bridge.
Without an arrow, sul. pont or norm should happen subito.



A box with a line/arrow should be repeated until the end of the line/arrow.
Rhythms within boxes do not need to be exact.

Microtones are all estimations; there are no clear hertz/cents differentiations.

Program Notes

Sea Change was inspired by three images in Liza Ryan’s “Antarctica” series. Ryan’s photos, taken in 2016 and then slightly altered for two years, “summon the terrible beauty of Antarctica,” as Patrick Rodgers of the Natural Resources Defense Council put it. The photos confront my anxieties about climate change and make my day-to-day world seem banal. Ryan’s images provoke a certain awe from the juxtaposition of surface stillness and underlying force, which I tried to engage with in the music. The first movement is slow and sparse, setting up the surface placidness. The second movement is fast and aggressive, with a certain anxiety and urgency. The third movement has surface motion but is stuck and unresolved.

The work was written for and premiered by the Aizrui Quartet in November 2018.

Sea Change

Tom Morrison

I
♩ = 52

Violin I
pp

Violin II
pp

Viola

Cello

5

Vln. I
mp *ppp*

Vln. II
mp *ppp*

Vla.
pp

Vc.
pp

7

Vln. I
ppp

Vln. II
ppp

Vla.
ppp

Vc.
ppp

10

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

A

ppp

ppp

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp

mp

ppp

16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

pp

p

pp

p

gliss.

18

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

n

n

3

3

3

3

3

ppp

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

3

3

3

3

ppp

p

ppp

p

ppp

p

24

B

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

3

3

3

3

3

mp

3

3

pp

mp

pp

mp

ppp

mp

8va

27 ⑧

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

30 ⑧

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

32 (8)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp *mf*

32 33

34 (8)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *mp* *ff*

34 35

C *slight rit.*

36 (8)

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

p

p

39 (8)

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vla.

Vc.

45 *at least 10"*

Vln. I

Vln. II *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

ppp

II

51 **D** ♩ = 126

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

55 *f* sul pont.

Vln. I *f* sul pont.

Vln. II *f* sul pont.

Vla. *f* sul pont.

Vc. *f* sul pont.

59 **E** norm. *p*

Vln. I norm. *p*

Vln. II norm. *p*

Vla. norm. *p*

Vc. norm. *p*

74 norm. **F** sul pont.

Vln. I *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f* sul pont.

Vla. *p* *f* sul pont.

Vc. *p* *f* sul pont.

78 norm. sul pont. norm. **G**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

83

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

H 87 sul pont. norm. sul pont. norm.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

92 *sul pont.* *norm.* **I**

Vln. I *ff* *f*

Vln. II *ff* *f*

Vla. *ff* *f*

Vc. *ff* *f*

96

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a string ensemble. The first system covers measures 92 to 95. Measures 92 and 93 are marked with a crescendo hairpin and a 'sul pont.' instruction. Measures 94 and 95 are marked with a decrescendo hairpin and a 'norm.' instruction, with a first ending bracket labeled 'I' above measure 95. The second system covers measures 96 to 99, which are marked with a decrescendo hairpin and a 'norm.' instruction. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

100

Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts are in treble clef. Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef. Cello (Vc.) is in bass clef. The score consists of four measures. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked '100'. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and frequent rests.

104

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

J

108

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

113

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f *fff*

Measures 113-117. Vln. I and II play a continuous eighth-note pattern. Vla. and Vc. play a similar pattern, with Vc. having a dynamic change from *f* to *fff* at measure 115.

118

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf *mp*

Measures 118-123. Vln. I and II play a continuous eighth-note pattern. Vla. and Vc. play a similar pattern, with Vc. having a dynamic change from *mf* to *mp* at measure 123.

124

K

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *f*

Measures 124-129. Vln. I and II play a continuous eighth-note pattern. Vla. and Vc. play a similar pattern, with Vc. having a dynamic change from *p* to *f* at measure 128.

130

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mp* *mf*

pp *mp* *mf*

136

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *pp*

L

142

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf *p*

mf *p*

149

M

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

156

N

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

p

163

Vln. I *pp* *mp*

Vln. II *ppp* *mp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

168

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

mf

173

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

O

178

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

182

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

185

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

189

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

193

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

196

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont.

norm.

P

ff

ff

ff

ff

200

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

fff

pp

fff

pp

fff

pp

pp

210

210

Vln. I

fff

Vln. II

fff

Vla.

pp *fff* *pp* *fff*

Vc.

pp *fff* *pp* *fff*

213 8va

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

216 Q no vibrato

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff*

no vibrato

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff*

no vibrato

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff*

no vibrato

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff*

220

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp*

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp*

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp*

pp *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp*

223

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

fff *pp* *fff* *pp* *f* *pp*

226

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff *pp* *fff* *fff* *gliss.* *vibrato*

230

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *p* *p* *p*

235 R

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *fff*

Vla. *fff*

Vc. *fff*

239 (attacca)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

III

242 ♩ = 52

Vln. I *ppp* *pp < mp pp*

Vln. II *pp < mp pp* *ppp*

Vla. *pp < mp pp* *pp < mp pp*

Vc. *pp < mp pp* *pp < mp pp*

246

Vln. I *pp* *mf*

Vln. II *pp* *mp*

Vla. *pp* *mf*

Vc. *pp* *mf*

250

Vln. I *p* *mp < mf* *p*

Vln. II *p* *mp < mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *f* *n*

Vc. *p* *f*

255 **S**

Repeat this box.
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

p

Repeat this box.
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

pp

mf

ppp

p

ppp

p

258

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

p

Repeat this box.
Occasionally play 1 quarter-tone higher
for no more that 2 or 3 beats,
then return to non-microtonal tuning.

mf

pp

260

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

pp

pp

262

senza microtones

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *pp*

p *pp*

264

Vln. I *p* *pp*

Vln. II *p* *pp*

Vla.

Vc.

266

gliss. exponentially to top of g string.

sul pont

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

n

n

n