

Disposable

For Solo English Horn

Ben Justis - 2016

Seven minutes

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Program Notes

How many worlds that, after blighted
Can bear existence once ignited
As we set forth to those so far
Our pioneering soul delighted
Will we last the night?

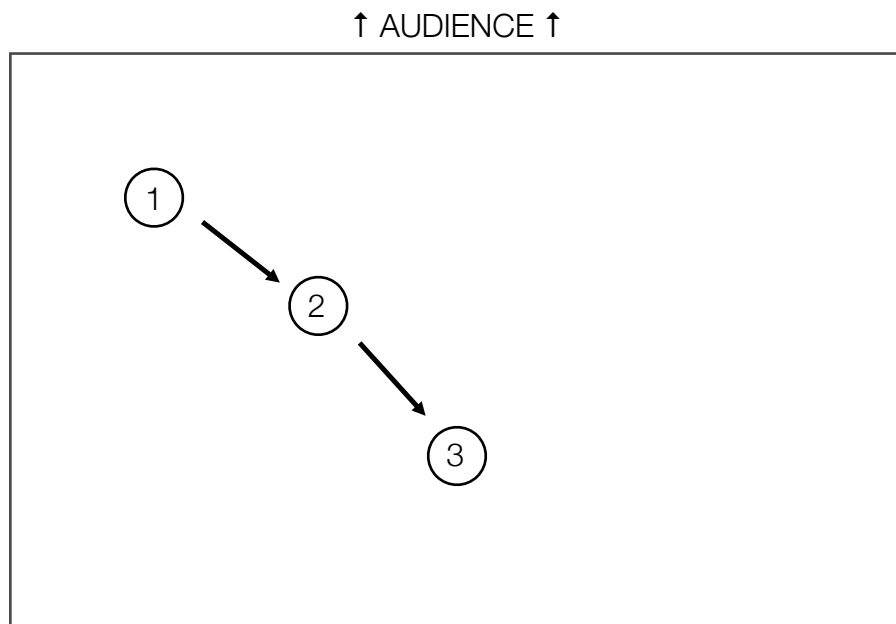
Tendrils reaching through the distance
For any realm without resistance
Grabbing at a place so far
An act of engineered subsistence
Could we last the night?

Now looking back in time to Earth
Our first home, our place of birth
The pale blue dot we set ablaze
For we never grasped her worth
Should we last the night?

Performance Notes

Dashed slurs indicate that phrases should be connected even though short breaths should be taken. Music stands with pages should be set up so that the player gets further from the audience as the piece progresses. Three stands should be used with page one on the first, page two and three on the second, and page four on the last. Stands should be at least 12 feet apart (as space allows). Walking from page to page should be pensive and deliberate, taking as many steps as necessary to get to the next stand. Crumpling of paper, expressions, and gestures should be subtle and thoughtfully presented.

One potential setup, looking down from above:



For a composer biography, to browse other works, or to inquire about commissions and projects, visit benjustis.com.

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Existence ignited (♩ = c. 60)

very free
mp < *f*

Like an echo
rit.

espress.

p < *n* *p* < *n* *p* < *mp*

4

p < *n* *p* < *n* *p* < *pp*

Like an echo
rit.

mp < *sub. p* < *mp*

12

p < *mf* < *p* < *n*

Like an echo
rit.

15

p < *n* *pp dolce* *p* *mf* *sub. p* < *n*

espress.

18

pp < *p* < *pp*

an afterthought

21

Crumple up this page, place on the ground, and walk to page 2.

stoically

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Onward, outward (♩ = 132)

28 *ff* *sub. p* *molto vib.* *ff* shrieking into total darkness

34 *completely still* *ff* *n* *p* *completely still*

42 *grabbing* *reaching* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *non vib.* *mf* *mp*

47 *fast as possible* *f* *sfp* *mp*

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50 *f* *sub. p* *f*

52 *p* *f* *mp* *sub. ff* *mp* *sub. ff*

55 *mp* *mf* *n* *Bend pitch up to E♭*

62 *p* *mf* *hectic*

66 *sub. p* *mf* *f* *sub. p*

69

mf *sub. p* *mf* *sub. p* *mf* *mf*

73

sub. p *mf*

75

Take more and more reed until crowing

shrieking into total darkness

f *ff*

78 $\text{♩} = 60$

Crumple up this page, set on the stand, and walk to page 4.

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with a sense of loss

85 Reflecting, regretful (♩ = 60)

Bend down as far as possible

mp flatlined, very static (non vib.) *weeping*

90 *espress.*

pp *p* *f* *mp*

Add vibrato, starting slow, growing faster

non vib.

95

n *p* *pp* *mp*

99

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104 *non vib.*

mp *mf*

107

pp *mp*

110

Repeat two-note figure as many times as possible

p *fading, exhausted, into nothing* *n*

113

Begin to grab this page, freeze, and retract hand and slowly close fingers into a fist.

disappointed *now self-conscious*