

BREATHING SPACE

Breathing Space

No Return

Night Sit

3 movements for string quartet

By

Evan Ziporyn

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Total length: approximately 25 minutes

Movement 1 (Breathing Space) 8 minutes

Movement 2 (No Return) 8 minutes

Movement 3 (Night Sit) 7 minutes

Program notes by the composer:

Stravinsky asserted that his music expressed nothing, but the Buddha said the same thing in the Heart Sutra. Music at its root bridges the abstract and the concrete - we turn the sounds and rhythms of our lives into the architecture of thought; we sound it out and meditate on the result. The emotional resonance (when it happens) rightfully remains a mystery. When I write I try to visualize the ideal players performing: it's not enough to hear it, I want to feel the friction of the bow and see the movement of the body, and when I write for strings I always see Ethel in my mind. These three movements all have their roots in programmatic contexts, but all belong to this quartet. "Breathing Space" was coaxed out of me by director Janet Sonnenberg to open her deconstructed "Hamlet"; "No Return" and "Night Sit" come out of the multidisciplinary "Salmon River Project," as commissioned by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. They are dedicated to my father.

Breathing Space was premiered by Ethel (Todd Reynolds and Mary Rowell, violins, Ralph Farris, viola, Dorothy Lawsom, cello) at Columbia University's Miller Theater, April 2003

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Evan Ziporyn

$\text{♩} = 150$

accel.

Violin 1
mp

Violin 2
mp

Viola

'Cello

7

Vln1

Vln2

Vla

Vc

13

$\text{♩} = 164$

Vln1

Vln2

Vla
mp

Vc
mp

19

Vln1

Vln2

Vla

Vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 25. It features four staves: Violin 1 (Vln1), Violin 2 (Vln2), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc). The Vln1 and Vln2 parts are in treble clef and contain melodic lines with various accidentals and slurs. The Vla part is in alto clef and consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Vc part is in bass clef and also provides a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8.

accel.

26

Vln1

Vln2

Vla

Vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26 through 32. The instrumentation remains the same: Vln1, Vln2, Vla, and Vc. The Vln1 and Vln2 parts continue their melodic development with more complex phrasing and slurs. The Vla and Vc parts maintain their eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature and time signature are consistent with the previous system.

33

Vln1

Vln2

Vla

Vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 33 through 39. The Vln1 and Vln2 parts show further melodic evolution, including some rests and changes in articulation. The Vla and Vc parts continue their accompaniment. The key signature and time signature remain the same.