

Dan Stern

Daniel's Choice

Instrumentation

Vibraphone
Marimba (5 octaves)

Duration: c. 7 minutes

Program Note.

The cloud at the top of Table Mountain in Cape Town is commonly known as the Tablecloth. It drapes over the wide expanse of the mountain, seemingly hanging in the air. I wanted to find a link between marimba and vibraphone that was the same as this: the wide, woody and earthy sound of the marimba tied in some way to the floating metallic soft peal of the vibraphone. In African legend, Marimba is the mother of music. The instrument is named after her. In *Damiel's Choice*, the marimba and vibraphone oscillate between conversational mode, imitating Table Mountain and the Tablecloth, and exploring how they are both together and yet apart. This last quality put me in mind of the relationship between Damiel and Marion in Wim Wenders' film, *Wings of Desire*. Damiel, one of the trench-coated angels charged with listening to and helping post-War Berliners, falls in love with the trapeze artist Marion. Both know what it is to float above the ground, but ultimately Damiel decides to become human and be bound by gravity.

First performed by Owen Gunnell and Oliver Cox, O Duo, on 23rd June 2013, St Magnus International Festival.

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A Calm.
Tempo 1
♩ = 120

Vibraphone

Marimba

B

Vib.

Mar.

C Playful, melancholy
Tempo 2
♩ = 294 (♩. = 98)

Vib.

Mar.

23

Vib.

Mar.

30

Vib.

Mar.

p

D

37

Vib.

Mar.

f

44

Vib.

Mar.

p

51

Vib.

Mar.

56

Vib.

Mar.

mf

p

pp

E Delicate, resonant

61

Vib. *pp*

Mar. *pp*

68

Vib. **F** *p*

Mar. *p*

75

Vib.

Mar.

82

Vib.

Mar.

mp *mp* *mp*

G Tempo 1
♩ = 120

89

Vib.

Mar.

pp *pp* *pp*

Ped.

96

Vib.

Mar.

p *mp*

103

Vib. *f* *> mp*

Mar. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

H

108

Vib. *p* *3*

Mar. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

p *6* *mp* *6*

112

Vib. *ppp*

Mar. *pp* *ppp*

115

Vib. *p*

Mar. *p* *mp*

I

119

Vib. *ppp* *pp* *ped.*

Mar. *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

123

Vib. *ppp*

Mar. *p* *ppp*

126

Vib. *p* *p* *mp* *p*

Mar. *pp* *mp* *p* *mp*

J Slightly Faster than Tempo 1
♩ = 126

129

Vib. *mf* *mp* *f* *f*

Mar. *p* *fp* *f* *p*

133

Vib.

Mar. *f*

136

Vib. *mf*

Mar. *p* *f* *mf* *p* *mf*

140

Vib. *mp* *mp* *ppp* *mp*

Mar. *mp* *p* *mp* *ppp* *mp*

144

Vib. *pp* *ppp* *mp*

Mar. *pp* *ppp* *mp* *p*

K Tempo 1
♩ = 120

148

Vib. *pp* *ppp*

Mar. *pp*

152

Vib. *pp* *p* *ppp* poco rall.

Mar. *p* *mp*

L

Slightly slower than Tempo 1
♩ = 116

157 - - - - 158

Vib. *pp* *p*

Mar. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

160

Vib.

Mar.

p *ppp*

163

Vib.

Mar.

p *ppp* *p* *ppp*

166

Vib.

Mar.

p *pp* *pp*

M Slightly faster than Tempo 2
♩ = 300

170

Vib.

Mar.

mf

Musical score for measures 170-176. The Vib. part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, starting with a rest. The Mar. part provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf*.

177

Vib.

Mar.

Musical score for measures 177-183. The Vib. part continues with slurs and accents. The Mar. part continues with rhythmic accompaniment.

184

Vib.

Mar.

mf

p

Musical score for measures 184-190. The Vib. part has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Mar. part has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

N

191

Vib.

Mar.

ff

198

Vib.

Mar.

pp

205

Vib.

Mar.

211

Vib. *mf* *p* *pp*

Mar. *mf* *p* *pp*

O Delicate, resonant

217

Vib. *ppp*

Mar. *ppp*

223

Vib.

Mar.

P

230

Vib. *ppp*
2^{do}

Mar.

237

Vib.

Mar.

243

molto rit.

Vib. *pppp*

l.v.

Mar. *pppp*