

Alex Wilson / Mthuthuzeli November

Water Me

for string quartet and percussion

Full Score

Music by Alex Wilson

Concept and choreography by Mthuthuzeli November

Water Me

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First performance:

Water Me

Choreography: Mthuthuzeli November

27 April, 2024

Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Germany

Staatsballett Karlsruhe

Instrumentation:

Medium/Large Gong
Suspended cymbal
Crotales
Wood Block
Bongos
Snare Drum
Tenor Drum/Floor Tom
Bass Drum

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello

Duration c.28'

Movement I – c.10'

Movement II – c.10'

Movement III – c.8'

Notes for Performers

'Water Me' is comprised of three movements which should be performed without breaks. The piece is performed without a conductor, and where appropriate the Violin I player should lead the ensemble.

Percussion:

There are two percussion parts. Each player employs a different instrumentation in each movement, and both players will often play the same instrument across a particular movement. 'Player 1' and 'Player 2' markings are given in the score to indicate personnel. The 'Percussion I' and 'Percussion II' parts for the players are split by instrument, per movement. The only fixed instruments are Gong (Percussion I) and Bass Drum (Percussion II).

Bongos – should be struck with hard stick or beater throughout

Bass Drum – dampening is left to the player's discretion. In general, shorter rhythmic gestures can be dampened appropriately.

Crotales - 1st movement b.88-104 – Percussion I bows crotales with double bass bow to create a sustained ringing pitch. Return to hard sticks at b.112. 3rd movement up to b.117, crotales should be dampened with cloth or similar to create a shorter ringing.

b.168-178 – feathered beaming is indicated in both percussion parts and cues are given in each percussion part to aid performance. Players should accel./rit. through strokes as indicated by the beams. The number of strokes indicated by the noteheads does not need to be adhered to strictly.

Percussion sets the tempo of the 2nd movement and 3rd movements, which should both feel rhythmically grounded throughout.

Strings:

For the opening of the piece, each string player may bow independently as required to maintain the sound of their harmonic.

At b.46, Violin II enters in canon with Violin I by one beat, and this configuration continues until figure C.

At b.163, Viola and 'Cello play tremolo with varying speed as instructed in the score. Each player varies their tremolo speed independently until b.171.

From b.169-176, feathered beaming is written across a quintuplet figure indicating a small accelerando through the five notes.

In the 2nd movement, the 'cello plays solo (with bass drum) from b.28-57. This should be played freely without strict tempo until Figure I.

I

$\text{♩} = 85$

PLAYER 1

PLAYER 2

(soft mallets)

bow freely to allow strong harmonic sustain

mp

mp

mp

mp

14

A

25

Gong

ppp *pp*

Crot.

PLAYER 1

p

Cym.

pp *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. I

Vln. II

mp *sim.*

Vla.

Vc.



37

Crot.

Cym.

pp *ppp* *pp*

Vln. I

pp *semplice e dolce*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.