2014

**Desolation sound for string quartet**

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Boston University

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*Boston University*
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Dissertation

DESOLATION SOUND
FOR STRING QUARTET

by

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M.Mus., University of British Columbia, 2008

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts

2014
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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DESOLATION SOUND
FOR STRING QUARTET
LESLEY RAINE HINGER

Boston University College of Fine Arts, 2014

Major Professor: Joshua Fineberg, D.M.A., Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory

ABSTRACT

This dissertation for the Doctor of Music Arts degree in Composition consists of an eight minute, single-movement work for string quartet titled desolation sound, that was written between 2013–2014. This piece was first read by the Arditti String Quartet on March 24, 2014 at Boston University, and premiered in Cambridge, Massachusetts on April 18, 2014 by Micah Ringham (violin), Lilit Hartunian (violin), Ashleigh Gordon (viola) and Rachel Barringer (violoncello).
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desolation sound

lesley hinger

2014
quartet (2014)
lesley hinger

violin I
violin II
viola
violoncello

performance notes

- with the exception of deliberately separate bowing on repeated passages, bowing slurs are merely suggested, and the player is free to adjust it to their comfort
- natural vibrato throughout
- e.s.p. = extreme sul ponticello
- s.p. = sul ponticello
- s.t. = sul tasto
- o.p. = over pressure, increased bow pressure that results in a scratch or crush tone
- ½ c.l. = ½ col legno, mix of bow hair and wood

o.p.
over pressure

\[ \text{e.s.p.} \rightarrow \text{behind bridge} \]

bow moving to extreme sul ponticello and continuing over the bridge

desolation sound was composed with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts

Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des arts du Canada
desolation sound

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with heightened frenetic, yet fragile energy

exaggerated bow changes

lasso

violin I

violin II

viola

violin cello
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EDUCATION

2010 – 2014  Boston University, Boston MA
  Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition

2006 – 2008  University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC
  Masters of Music in Composition

2001 – 2006  University of Calgary, Calgary AB
  Bachelor of Music in Composition, Primary Instrument – Piano

ASSISTANTSHIPS

2011 – 2014  Music 207 – Aural Skills III (Fall)
  Music 208 – Aural Skills IV (Winter)
  Boston University, Boston MA
  • Taught undergraduate ear training, sight singing and dictation

2006 – 2008  Music 100 – Introduction to Musical Form
  Music 300 – Approaches to the Music of Modernism
  University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC
  • Assisted with tutorials, marked all assignments and tests

COMPOSITION TUTORS

2011 – 2014  Joshua Fineberg (PhD Columbia), Boston MA
2010       Rodney Lister (MFA Brandeis), Boston MA
2006 – 2008  Keith Hamel (PhD Harvard), Vancouver BC
2007       Dorothy Chang (DM Indiana), Vancouver BC
2004 – 2005  William Jordan (PhD Florida State), Calgary AB
2004       Hope Lee (MMus McGill) Calgary AB
2003       Allan Bell (MMus University of Alberta), Calgary AB
2002 – 2003  David Eagle (PhD UC Berkeley), Calgary AB

WORKS

LARGE ENSEMBLE

in light (2014) for 9 players (8 min)
  • Written for the ALEA III Ensemble, February 2014

Frozen Imprints (2012) for Large Chamber Ensemble (6 min)
  1. Recorded by Sound Icon at Boston University in February 2012
The Magic of Friendship (2010) Children’s Opera for ages 6 to 12 (50 min)
2. With libretto in English by Glenda Stirling, commissioned by Calgary Opera for Lake Bonavista Elementary. Premiered May 2010

Il faut toujours aider son prochain (2009) Children’s Opera for ages 9 to 12 (40 min)

seachange (2007) for Orchestra (11 min)
- Performed by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Bramwell Tovey on January 31 2008, for the Jean Coulthard Reading Sessions

CHAMBER AND SOLO

desolation sound (2014) for string quartet (10 min)
- Recorded by the Arditti Quartet in March 2014, premiered Lilypad in Cambridge, MA, April 2014

in lightness (2013) for solo accordion (8 min)
- Premiered at the Composit New Music Festival in Rieti, Italy, July 2013

Blight (2012-2013) for Pierrot Ensemble + Percussion (8 min)
- Premiered by L’orchestre de la francophonie in June 2012 at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, ON.

Loess (2011) for Violoncello & Piano (7 min)

Dilates (2010) for Tape (electroacoustic, 6 min)
- Presented in November 2011 at the Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival at the University of Richmond, Richmond VA

if the current swings me south (2010) for Mixed Chorus (6 min)
4. Commissioned by the Cum Vino Cantus chorus and Director Jean-Louis Bleau

I close my ears, my eyes, my mouth (2009) for Bass Clarinet, Violin & Piano (8 min)
- Commissioned by New Works Calgary for Ensemble Resonance. Premiered in November 2009 at the Rozsa Centre, Calgary AB

from within (2008) for Violin Solo (10 min)
- Featured at the Sask New Music in Saskatoon, SK in June of 2012

if not, winter (2008) in 7 Movements for Soprano and Chamber Ensemble (20 min)

a una niña, mientras le taladran los oídos (2007) for Soprano and Percussion (5 min)

Trenje (2005) for Piano Trio (12 min)
- Winner of the Land’s End Chamber Ensemble Composer’s Competition, 2005

all these sages (2005) for Solo Flute (6 min)
- Premiered by Sean Clarke as part of the CMC New Music in New Places Concert Series August 2005, Kananaskis AB.
FILM

Witch (2009) for Solo Piano (5 min)
- Short film score for director Michael Welchman, premiered October 2009 at the Plaza Theatre, Calgary AB

Soldier (2008) for Violin & Synthesizer (11 min)
- Short film score for director Michael Welchman, premiered October 2008 at the Emmedia Screening Room, Calgary AB.

Bussing Life (2007) for Piano & Synthesizer (7 min)
- Short film score for director William Fitzberg, Vancouver BC

AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS & SUMMER PROGRAMS

2014 Elected to the Alpha Kappa chapter of Pi Kappa Lamda
2013 Canada Council for the Arts, Music Grant
2013 Program Participant, Composit New Music Festival
2012 Program Participant, National Arts Centre Summer Institute
2010, 2011 Boston University, Composition Department Scholarship
2007, 2011 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Music Project Grant
2009 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Commission for New Works Calgary
2008 Participant, Coulthard Reading Session, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
2005 Winner - Land’s End Chambre Ensemble Composer’s Competition
2004, 2005 F.L. Fenwick Scholarship in Music, University of Calgary
2005 E.G. Coombe Family Bursary in Music, University of Calgary
2003, 2004 Irene Y.L. Fung Memorial Bursary, University of Calgary

COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS & GUEST LESSONS

2014 Arditti String Quartet: Reading/recording session of desolation sound
2014 Olga Neuwirth: Private lessons
2013 Philippe Leroux: Private lessons
2013 Salvatore Sciarrino: Private lessons, and critique in masterclass
2012 Enrico Chapela: Private lesson and critique in masterclass
2012 Philippe Leroux: Private lesson and critique in masterclass
2011 Theodore Antoniou: Private lessons
2008 Jeffrey Ryan: Critique following the VSO performance of seachange
2007 Menachem Zur: Overview and critique of a una niña
2006 Standing Wave Ensemble: Reading session
2006 John Rea: Overview and critique of Trenje and all these sages
2005 Gary Kulesha: Overview and critique of Trenje
2004 Ensemble Contemporaine de Montréal: Reading session
2004 Laurie Radford: Reading session
2003 Michael Colgrass: Masterclass/reading session