

Memory: Image: Trees: Song

For string quartet

James Wishart

1994/95

Transcribed, edited, arranged and abridged:

Ian Percy

2018

Memory: Image: Trees: Song

For string quartet

James Wishart

1994/95

Transcribed, edited, arranged and abridged:

Ian Percy

2018

Memory: Image: Trees: Song

For string quartet

James Wishart

The quartet's title makes reference to the importance of memory as a trigger for the (sometimes embroidered) reminiscences of particular events in the composer's past.

The common feature is that of trees – there are three 'tree memories' – firstly, a memory of the jacaranda trees across the city of Sydney bursting into vivid blossom in the Australian spring (November 1985), secondly, the flowing of branches of the banyan tree in the Bogor botanical gardens in Java (December 1985) and finally, a strange picture of a solitary Oak tree in the middle of a Warwickshire field at harvest-time with enormously strong colour contrasts – golden field of corn with a totally black stormy sky (Autumn 1990).

These images, each of which touch off a broader picture – of abundant and profound colour; of efflorescence; of stark contrast – are twinned in a non-programmatic way with three basic kinds of musical material which are unfolded separately and then intermingled.

Once the musical material was formed, musical considerations took over and governed the way in which the piece is constructed. It might nonetheless be seen as homage to the power (sometimes the distorting power) of memory to leave vivid images hovering in our minds, often for years at a time?

James Wishart, 1995

Goodbye James and rest in peace (2018) ...

Memory: Image: Trees: Song

(Excerpt and Abridge)

for string quartet

James Wishart (1994-95)
transcribed, edited and abridged:
Ian Percy (2018)

Excerpt 1 ... hold very still ...

♩ = 69 ... tempo 1...

(nat. harm. sul G and sul D)

pizz. arco

187

pp *pp* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

poco rubato, molto espress. [similar to a descending microtonal gliss] approx.

approx.

pizz. arco pizz. arco

pp *pp* *pp* *fff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

poco rubato, molto espress. approx.

approx.

pizz. arco pizz. arco

pp *pp* *pp* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

poco rubato, molto espress. approx.

(nat. harm. sul A)

pizz. arco pizz. arco

pp *pp* *pp* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

poco rubato, molto espress.

B ... with more motion, goal and momentum ...*molto rubato, molto espress.**poco rubato, molto espress.*

approx.

Musical score for a four-part setting, measures 197-204. The score is written for four staves: Soprano (top), Alto (second), Tenor (third), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Measure 197: Soprano (f), Alto (f), Tenor (ff), Bass (ff). *molto rubato, molto espress.*

Measure 198: Soprano (f), Alto (f), Tenor (ff), Bass (ff). *molto rubato, molto espress.*

Measure 199: Soprano (mf), Alto (f), Tenor (ff), Bass (ff). *poco rubato, molto espress.*

Measure 200: Soprano (f), Alto (f), Tenor (ff), Bass (ff). *approx.*

Measure 201: Soprano (f), Alto (f), Tenor (f), Bass (mf). *approx.*

Measure 202: Soprano (f), Alto (mf), Tenor (f), Bass (mf). *approx.*

Measure 203: Soprano (mf), Alto (mf), Tenor (mf), Bass (mf). *approx.*

Measure 204: Soprano (mf), Alto (mf), Tenor (mf), Bass (mf). *approx.*

215

E ... a little slower ...

F ♩ = 69 ... tempo 1...

[similar to a descending microtonal gliss] approx. pizz. arco approx. pizz. *poco rubato, molto espress.* arco

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

[similar to a descending microtonal gliss] approx. pizz. arco approx. pizz. *poco rubato, molto espress.* arco

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

mp *mp* *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *mp*

arco *poco rubato, molto espress.* arco *pizz.*

mp *p* *p* *p* *mp* *mf*

... a little slower ...

G ... a solitary moment - a release of tension ...

H ♩ = 69 ... tempo 1 (fluidic space) ...

poco rit.

approx. fluid legato extremely slow gliss over 17 ♩ extremely slow gliss over 17 ♩

gliss.

226

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

approx. fluid legato approx. fluid legato approx.

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

approx. fluid legato approx.

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

arco pizz. fluid legato arco approx.

mp *mf* *mp* *mp*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score consists of four staves. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a glissando over 17 measures. The second staff (treble clef) also starts with a triplet, followed by a fluid legato passage. The third staff (bass clef) begins with a triplet, followed by a fluid legato passage. The fourth staff (bass clef) starts with a triplet, followed by a pizzicato (pizz.) and then a fluid legato arco passage. The score includes various articulations such as glissandos, triplets, and slurs. Dynamics are marked as mezzo-piano (mp) and mezzo-forte (mf). The tempo is indicated as 'tempo 1 (fluidic space)' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The score concludes with a 'poco rit.' (poco ritardando) instruction.

I ♩ = 63

J ... a little quieter ... poco rit. [♩ = 46]

approx. (nat. harm. sul G and sul D)

235

pp *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *pp*

approx. [similar to a microtonal gliss] approx. fluid legato

pp *mp* *mp* *mp* *p* *pp*

pp *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *pp*

(RH) pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. (nat. harm. sul A)

pp *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

(LH) pizz. + *mp* *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

L ... fast, sudden, violent and explosive ...

M ♩ = 69 ... tempo 1...

N ... a little quicker and a little louder ...

261

The musical score consists of four staves. The first staff is in treble clef, the second in treble clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 10/4 to 9/8, then 2/4, 5/4, and back to 9/8. The score includes dynamic markings (p, ffff, pp), articulation (arco, pizz.), and tempo markings (L, M, N). The first staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The second staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The third staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The fourth staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The score is divided into measures 261-270. The first staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The second staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The third staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The fourth staff has a measure rest at the beginning.

arco, pizz.

fff

p

fff

p

pp

fff

p

arco, pizz.

fff

p

pp

fff

p

arco, pizz.

fff

p

pp

fff

p

arco, pizz.

fff

p

pp

fff

p

O ... a little slower and a little quieter ... rit. **P** ♩ = 69 ... tempo 1...

... completely at rest ...

attacca

271

arco pizz. arco

fff *p* *fff*

arco pizz. arco pizz.

p *fff* *p* *pp* *ppp*

arco pizz. arco pizz.

p *fff* *p* *pp* *ppp*

arco pizz. arco pizz.

p *fff* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Memory: Image: Trees: Song

For string quartet

James Wishart

1994/95

Transcribed, edited, arranged and abridged:

Ian Percy

2018

iancarlpercy@gmail.com

percyi@hope.ac.uk