

Joseph Klein

**Against the gusts of blank repose,  
a threshold that persists**

(2016/18)

for orchestra

To the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein (1991-2015)

duration: c. 10'



## Instrumentation

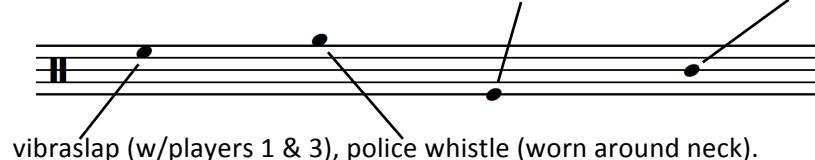
- piccolo
- 2 flutes
- 2 oboes
- English horn
- clarinet in E♭
- clarinet in A
- bass clarinet in B♭
- 2 bassoons
- contrabassoon
- piccolo trumpet in A
- 2 trumpets in C
- 4 horns in F
- 2 tenor trombones
- bass trombone
- tuba
- timpani
- 3 percussion
- piano
- harp
- strings

Timpani: 4 drums (32", 30", 28", 25"), 2 cymbals (inverted and placed on timpani II & III). Striking implements: medium felt sticks, wood stick.  
 Percussion battery:

- Player 1: snare drum, bongo drum (low), 4 tom-toms, 2 woodblocks (high, med-low), suspended cymbal, large tam-tam (w/player 2), vibraphone (w/players 2 & 3), ratchet (w/player 2), triangle.
- 

Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, snare drum sticks, metal (triangle) beaters, tam-tam beater.

- Player 2: xylophone, glockenspiel, chimes, vibraphone (w/player 3), large tam-tam (w/player 1), ratchet (w/player 1), vibraphone (w/players 1 & 3), police whistle (worn around neck).

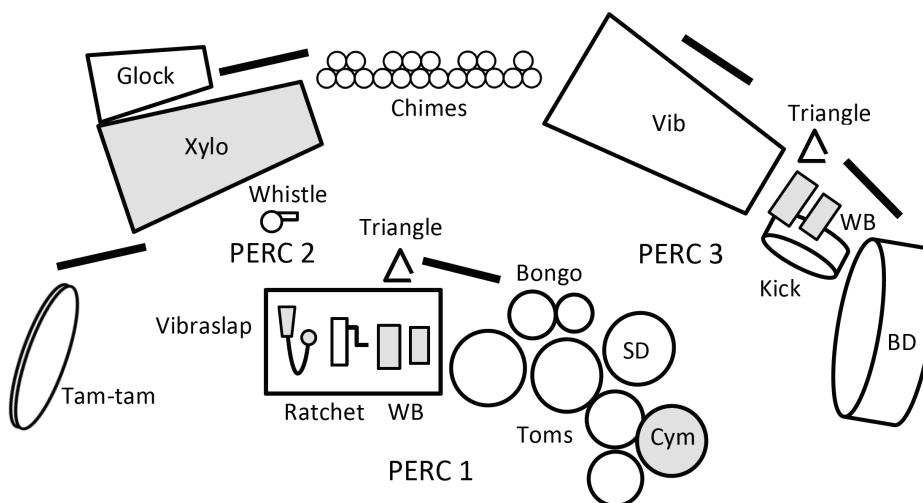


Striking implements: medium rubber mallets, hard rubber mallets, medium yarn mallets, tam-tam beater, bass bow, chime hammers.

- Player 3: vibraphone (w/player 2), 2 woodblocks (med-high, low), bass drum, kick drum, triangle, vibraphone (w/players 1 & 2).



Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, metal (triangle) beaters, bass bow, bass drum beater.



## Performance Information

- This is a transposed score.
- Accidentals apply only to pitches they immediately precede, with the exception of repeated pitches.
- All horns require mutes. All trumpets require straight mutes; additionally, trumpets 2-3 require cup mutes. All trombones require straight mutes; additionally, tenor trombone 2 requires cup mute.
- The chimes and vibraphone require the pedal to be depressed at all times. It is recommended that a weight be used to depress the pedals on these instruments throughout.
- The muted piano passages (Rehearsal G and Rehearsal J) are to be played by pressing the side of the hand against the strings on the far side of the dampers while playing the pitches on the keyboard.
- Harp harmonics sound an octave higher than written; string harmonics are notated at sounding pitch.

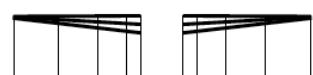
## Performance Information (cont.)



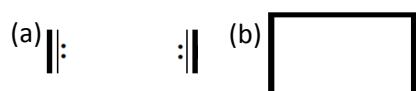
durational continuum within *senza misura* section: values arranged from shortest to longest (precise durations *ad libitum*).



fermata continuum: arranged from shortest to longest.



accelerando/ritardando; duration indicated in metered sections.



repeating mobiles: (a) ordered material; (b) unordered material.



repeat material for the duration of the wavy line: (a) as written; (b) freely, *ad libitum*.



*senza misura*; top number indicates the number of cues within the measure



rapid downward glissando (harp)



cue (within *senza misura* sections)



slow upward glissando (harp, piano)



brief pause/break in sound



silently depress all keys within range (piano)



fluttetongue/tremolo/roll/bisbigliando



mute strings with hand (piano)



erratic, uneven tremolo/bisbigliando



dead stroke (percussion)



let ring/blend into next section



snap pizzicato (strings)



sneak entrance/blend with previous section



play between bridge and tailpiece (strings)



pitch bend/glissando

## Program Note

**Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists** is dedicated to the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein, who took his life in September 2015 at the age of 23. The work's title is derived from two lines in Alice Fulton's poem "Silencer," from the collection *Powers of Congress* (1990)—a poem that itself deals with the subject of suicide—and is an allusion to the persistent struggle with that boundary between life and death ("blank repose").

The work is characterized by sharp juxtapositions of contrasting—often conflicting—musical elements, including sections of restless energy, obsessive ostinato figures, and intrusive interjections, occasionally relieved by stretches of placid, suspended music. The disjunct, fragmentary structure that results, combined with the inherently static, non-developmental nature of the material itself, is intended to subvert the typical linear narrative. An important unifying element of the work is the pitch cell G-A-Bb-E, which is the basis of a repeating interval sequence used to generate the symmetrical, non-octave-repeating scale that is used pervasively throughout the work. This scale is most clearly presented in the ascending quasi-ostinato bass line that first occurs after the slow introductory section. Prime numbers and rhythmic patterns based on Morse Code are also used as unifying structural elements.

*Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists*, originally composed for wind orchestra, was completed in September 2016. The work was revised and transcribed for orchestra in June 2018, and first performed on 27 February 2019 by the University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Clay Couturiaux.

## Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

to the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein (1991-2015)

for orchestra

Joseph Klein  
2015-16

**Anxious**  $\text{♩} = 48; \text{♪} = 72$

c. 25"

PICCOLO

FLUTE 1,2

OBOE 1,2

ENGLISH HORN

CLARINET in E $\flat$

CLARINET in A

BASS CLARINET in B $\flat$

BASSOON 1,2

CONTRABASSOON

HORN in F 1,3

HORN in F 2,4

PICCOLO TRUMPET in A

TRUMPET in C 2,3

TENOR TROMBONE 1,2

BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

TIMPANI

place cymbals on Timp II & III

I: F; IV: E

VIBRASLAP      WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber  $\text{♩} = 60$

POLICE WHISTLE      RATCHET

PERCUSSION 1

PERCUSSION 2

PERCUSSION 3

PIANO

HARP

D $\natural$  C $\sharp$  B $\natural$   
E $\flat$  F $\sharp$  G $\flat$  A $\sharp$

**Anxious**  $\text{♩} = 48; \text{♪} = 72$

c. 25"

VIOLIN I

VIOLIN II

VIOLA

VIOLONCELLO

CONTRABASS

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

**A**  $\text{♩} = 72$

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
**4**  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN

HN 1,3  
a2 (mutes)  
quasi adagio  
sim., ad libitum  
pp lontano  
a2 (mutes)  
quasi adagio  
sim., ad libitum  
HN 2,4  
pp lontano

PC TP  
**4**  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
mf  
B TN  
mf  
TB

TIMP

PRC 1  
TAM TAM  
mp

PRC 2  
**4**  
—(X)→  
BASS DRUM

PRC 3  
**4**  
mp

PF  
INSIDE  
w/fingertips  
mp gently  
X →

HP  
mp gently  
X →

**A**  $\text{♩} = 72$

VN I  
VN II  
**4**  
VA  
**4**  
VC  
CB  
(non div.)  
mp gently

5"

3"

(play independently):

**2** X  
**1** X

**2** X  
**1** X

**2** X  
**1** X

2  
VIBRAPHONE w/bow  
molto  
poco f

(outside):

5"

3"

(III) o -----

(play independently):

**2** X  
(div.)  
gliss.  
mf n  
(div.)  
gliss.  
mf n

**1** X

col legno battuto  
mp erratic

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

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**B** **Tempestuous**  $\text{♩} = 60$  ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
E♭ CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN

HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB

TIMP  
remove cymbals from Timp II & III  
II: A♭ ; III: C♯

PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3

PF  
HP

D♭ C♭ B♭  
E♯ F♯ G♯ A♯

**B** **Tempestuous**  $\text{♩} = 60$  ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

8

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

LO BONGO

(BONGO)

(BONGO)

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

poco f

HP

poco f

VN I

arco

VN II

4  
8

4  
4

3  
8

4  
4

3  
4

3  
8

3  
4

4  
8

4  
4

3  
8

4  
4

3  
4

3  
8

3  
4

VN I

arco

VN II

4  
8

4  
4

3  
8

(unis.)

4  
4

3  
4

3  
8

3  
4

VC

CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

C

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN  
HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB  
TIMP  
PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3  
PF  
HP  
VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

(open)  
(open)  
(open)  
poco f  
poco f  
poco f  
w/med. felt  
poco f  
(BONGO)  
mf  
mp 3 mf  
sffz  
w/wood (w/felt)  
sffz mp  
sffz  
pizz. ⚡  
pizz. ⚡  
pizz. ⚡  
pizz. ⚡  
pizz. ⚡

34 35 36 37 38 39 40

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

8

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

poco

mp poco

mp (sim.)

CBN

poco

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

4 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 4

TN 1,2

poco f

B TN

poco f

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

(BONGO)

(SNARE)

poco f

PRC 2

PRC 3

4 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 4

PF

poco f

HP

VN I

arco

poco f

arco

VN II

4 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 4

VA

poco f

VC

CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

**D**

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN  
HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB  
TIMP  
PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3  
PF  
HP  
VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

8

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH 5 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

Eb CL 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

A CL (sfz)

BS CL 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP 5 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

W/wood (w/felt)

TIMP

(TOMS) (BONGO) (BONGO) (SNARE) (BONGO) (TOMS)

PRC 1 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

PRC 2 5 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

PRC 3 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

w/wood (w/felt)

PF

HP D C

VN I pizz. arco 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

VN II 5 8 3 4 5 8 3 4 5 4

VA mp (sim.) f 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

VC (non div.)

VC (non div.)

CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

E

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

5 4 5 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 8 3 8

Eb CL

A CL

cresc.

BS CL

cresc.

BN 1,2

cresc.

CBN

cresc.

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

f 2.

mf poco

mf poco

PCTP

TP 2,3

5 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 8 3 8

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

*f' (non troppo)*

TIMP

poco cresc.

(SNARE)

(BONGO)

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

5 4 5 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 8 3 8

sfz

poco

mf

PF

HP

VN I

(sim.)

VN II

(sim.)

div.

(unis.)

5 4 5 8 3 8 4 8 5 8 4 8 3 8

VA

cresc.

poco f

mf poco

VC

cresc.

poco f

mf poco

CB

cresc.

poco f

mf poco

61

62

63

64

65

66

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

HP

VN I

VN II

VA

VC

CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

4  
8  
3  
8  
2  
8  
4  
2

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

HP

VN I

VN II

VA

VC

CB

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

**F Suspended**  $\text{♩} = 40$

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN

HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB

TIMP

PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3  
PF  
HP

VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

place cymbals on Timp II & III

GLOCK w/hard rubber  
VIBRAPHONE w/med. yarn  $\text{mp}$   
 $\text{F} \text{ (sempre)}.$   $\rightarrow$

D $\sharp$  C $\sharp$  B $\sharp$   
E $\flat$  F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A $\sharp$

**F Suspended**  $\text{♩} = 40$

mutes on  
mutes on  
mutes on  
mutes on  
mutes on  
mutes on

arco, mutes  
II  $\text{p}$

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

8

PC      *p*

FL 1,2      (1.) *hol*

OB 1,2

EH      *p*

Eb CL      42

A CL

BS CL      32

BN 1,2      1. *p*

CBN      2. *p*

HN 1,3      1. mute

HN 2,4      2. (open)

PC TP      (st. mute) 42

TP 2,3      2. cup mute

TN 1,2      1. straight mute

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2      15

PRC 3      42

PF

HP

VN I      32

VN II      arco, mutes 42

VA      *p*

VC      arco

CB      pizz. (mutes) *mp*

93

94

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

remove cymbal from Timp III  
III: → C♯

PRC 1

XYLOPHONE w/med. rubber

PRC 2

f secco

VIBRAPHONE w/bow

PRC 3

p (X200) molto f

PF

muted w/hand

f secco

HP

(l.v.)

VN I

2 soli

f — p f poco p — f poco pp molto f

VN II

pp molto f p — f poco f — poco f — p

VA

VC

CB

3 4

4 4

3 4

4 4

3 4

4 4

Play in any order, independently of one another; do not repeat a gesture until all four have been played. Stagger entrances, avoid playing together as much as possible. Each iteration is 2-4" in duration; pauses between iterations are 3-5" each.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

HP

VN I

VN II

VA

VC

CB

105

106

107

108

109

110

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

$\leftarrow \text{♪} = \text{♪} \rightarrow (\text{j.} = 72)$

PC      FL 1,2      OB 1,2      EH      Eb CL      A CL      BS CL      BN 1,2      CBN

**4**      **12**      **8**      **3**      **4**

$\leftarrow \text{♪} = \text{♪} \rightarrow (\text{j.} = 108)$

HN 1,3      HN 2,4      PC TP      TP 2,3      TN 1,2      B TN      TB      TIMP

**4**      **12**      **8**      **3**      **4**

PRC 1      PRC 2      PRC 3      PF      HP

TAM TAM      INSIDE w/fingertips *poco f*      *f*      *p*      *f*

Sust.      B $\sharp$       *poco f* (*f secco*)      *f*      *f*

VN I      VN II      VA      VC      CB

**4**      **12**      **8**      **3**      **4**

(non div.)      *poco f*

**111**      **112**      **113**      **114**      **115**      **116**

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

## Tempestuous ♩ = 120

**Suspended**  $\leftarrow \text{d.} = \text{d} \rightarrow (\text{d} = 40)$

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

HP

VN I

VN II

VA

VC

CB

*poco*

*mf* *poco*

*sffz*

*p*

*3* *8* *5* *8* *4* *2* *3* *2* *5* *2* *4* *2*

*poco*

*mf* *f (sub.)*

*sffz*

*p*

*a2* *mf* *poco*

*mf* *poco*

*mf* *poco*

*mf* *poco*

*p sub.*

*sffz*

*p*

*open*

*p*

*4* *2* *3* *2* *5* *2* *4* *2*

*w/med. felt*

*w/wood*

*(w/felt)*

*RATCHET*

*ff (fast)*

*CYMBAL*

*(XYLO) w/hard plastic*

*VIBRASLAP*

*VIBRAPHONE w/med. yarn*

*KICK DRUM*

*(XXL)*

*3* *8* *5* *8* *4* *2* *3* *2* *5* *2* *4* *2*

*(Sost.)*

*mp*

*(sempre)*

*E#*

*D C B E F G A B*

**Tempestuous**  $\text{♩} = 120$

*pizz. (tutti)*

*pizz. (tutti)*

*pizz. (unis.)*

*(unis.)*

*mutes on*

**H Suspended**  $\leftarrow \text{♩.} = \text{♩} \rightarrow (\text{♩} = 40)$

*mutes on*

*mutes on*

*mutes on*

*mutes*

*p*

**4** **2**

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

## Tempestuous ♩ = 120

## Tempestuous ♩ = 120

• > [ ]

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

HP

VN I

VN II

VA

VC

CB

**1 Tempestuous** ♩ = 120

div. a 2 (inside, ord.)

(outside): (unis.)

(outside): (unis.)

(unis., ord.)

poco

sub.

non div.

mutes off

pizz.

arco

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Tempestuous ♩ = 120

7"

**PC**

**FL 1,2**

**OB 1,2**

**EH**

**Eb CL**

**A CL**

**BS CL**

**BN 1,2**

**CBN**

**HN 1,3**

**HN 2,4**

**PCTP**

**TP 2,3**

**TN 1,2**

**B TN**

**TB**

**TIMP**

**(BONGO)**

**(TOMS)**

**(SNARE)**

**(BONGO)**

**CYMBAL**

**XYLO**

**PRC 1**

**PRC 2**

**PRC 3**

**PF**

**HP**

**VN I**

**VN II**

**VA**

**VC**

**CB**

**7"**

**Tempestuous ♩ = 120**

**(non div.)**

**div.**

**(non div.)**

**7"**

**(non div.)**

**139**      **140**      **141**      **142**      **143**      **144**

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

**3"** **Tempestuous**  $\text{♩} = 120$

**J** **Intense, Frenetic**  $\text{♩} = 108$

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN  
HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB  
TIMP  
PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3  
PF  
HP  
VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

**5** *poco* **8** *poco* **4** **4** **3** **4** **4** **4** **3** **4**

**CYMBAL (on Timp II)** *poco* **5** **8** **4** **4** **3** **4** **4** **3** **4**

**SNARE** **CYMBAL** **TRIANGLE** *w/metal beaters*  
**POLICE WHISTLE** **RATCHET** **KICK DRUM** **XYLOPHONE** *w/med. rubber*  
**1** **X** **5** **8** **4** **4** **3** **4** **4** **3** **4**

**3"** **Tempestuous**  $\text{♩} = 120$

**J** **Intense, Frenetic**  $\text{♩} = 108$

**2 soli**  
**2 soli**  
**(See instructions for mm. 99-117)**

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

A CL

BS CL

BN 1,2

CBN

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

PC TP

TP 2,3

TN 1,2

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PF

HP

VN I

VN II

VA

VC

CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

**Anxious**

K 11" 7" 3" 5" 7"

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN  
HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
st. mute  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB

CYMBALS (on Timp II & III)  
w/med. felt

poco sim., ad lib.

WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber  $\text{♩} = 60$

PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3

VIBRASLAP  
WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber  $\text{♩} = 50$

CHIMES  
VIBRAPHONE w/bow  
CHIMES

PF  
HP

D $\flat$  C B $\flat$   
E $\sharp$  F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A $\sharp$

**Anxious**

K 11" 7" 3" 5" 7"

VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

pizz. (tutti)  
pizz. (tutti)

pizz.  $\diamond$   
pizz.  $\diamond$

1  
2  
1  
2  
1

160 161 162 163 164

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

15"+

2" 5" 3" 11" c.7" 15"+

PC  
FL 1,2  
OB 1,2  
EH  
Eb CL  
A CL  
BS CL  
BN 1,2  
CBN

HN 1,3  
HN 2,4  
PC TP  
TP 2,3  
TN 1,2  
B TN  
TB

TIMP

PRC 1  
PRC 2  
PRC 3

PF  
HP

VN I  
VN II  
VA  
VC  
CB

165 166 167 168 169 170