

night drags by

Dylan Fitzhenry

Written for the Standing Wave Ensemble

Night Drags By – Program Note (ca. 7'15)

*O, who is she that stands by the sea,
In the lightning's glare, undaunted?—
Seems this now like the coast of hell
By one white spirit haunted!*

*The night drags by; and the breakers die
Along the ragged ledges;
The robin stirs in his drenchéd nest,
The hawthorn blooms on the hedges.*

Excerpt from “Seadrift” by Thomas Bailey Aldrich

As a composer, writing this piece of music felt like painting a picture. Imagine a scene of an immense cargo ship, sinking into the ocean in the dead of night. The chaos of rescuing any people on board has already past, and all that remains is an empty husk of metal and rust slowly sinking out of sight into the inky depths. It is less than lonely. A ship that nobody ever knew or cared about, sinking away to be forgotten forever.

I paint this scene in three parts throughout the piece. The first represents the tides and current near the surface of the water, as the helpless ship begins its plunge. Parallel planing motion and wave-like melodic motion decorate this section. The second represents a moment in time where the ship is cascaded in refracted moonlight just below the ocean's surface, marked by a shift to major tonality and a shimmering cello melody. This section is meant to capture one moment of absolute beauty that no person is around to witness. Finally, the third section represents the ship's final descent into the lightless depths of the ocean, never to be seen again. The use of extreme registers across instruments paints the distance between the surface, where rain begins to gently tap the water, and the cold seafloor, where the ship eventually reaches, with a low piano cluster chord to mark the impact of steel on silt at the bottom of the ocean.

Score Night Drags By

Dylan Fitzhenry

♩ = 72, Dour, Sinking Feeling (but not actually dragging)

[illegible]

12 13 14 15 16

Fl. *f*

B. Cl. *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Tam *mf* *p* *mp* *gently scraping, irregularly*

Pno. *n*

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Fl. *pp* *until flute dies away* *blow air, very little pitch* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *pp* *until flute dies away* *just air, chromatic down* *f*

Vln. *pizz.* *mp* *until flute dies away*

Vc. *pizz.* *mp* *until flute dies away*

Vib. *3* *mp* *pp* *3*

Tam *p* *mp* *until flute dies away* *To Vibraphone*

Pno. *pp* *8*

This image shows a page from a musical score, specifically measures 24 through 28. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Vibraphone (Vib.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 25. The score features various musical notations, including dynamics (p, pp, ord.), articulation (arco), and phrasing slurs. Measure numbers 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 are clearly marked above the Flute staff. The page number 8 is visible at the bottom left.

29 30 31 32

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

8

pp

8

33 34 35 36

Fl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Vib.

Tam *f* *mp*

Pno. *f*

To Tam-Tam

scraping (back of vibraphone mallets)

roll (back of mallets)

8

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Fl. *pp* *p* *mf* Solo

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Tam L.V.

Mk. Tr. mark tree

Pno. *pp*

8

unsteady, like it takes a few beats to actually find the harmonic.

Slow, ad lib.

[illegible]

53

54

ord. vib.

flz.

55

56

ord.

57

58

Fl.

mp

pp

p

3

B. Cl.

mp

pp

p

3

Vln.

p

Vc.

To Vibes

Vib.

p

3

Pno.

59 60 61 62

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Tam.

Pno.

pp

sickening gliss

gliss.

pp

slow bow over fingerboard, gradual high pressure (creaky ship)

IV

p

Tam-tam

p

bowed

pp

3

8

65 66 67 68 69 70

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Tam.

Vibslp.

Pno.

Solo

mp

Scratch tone, irregular tremolo morse code-like

subito mf

slow bow over fingerboard, high pressure (creaky ship)

mp

ord.

mf

pizz.

mp

one big scrape (back of mallet)

subito mf

mp

+Vibraslap (still holding one vibraphone mallet)

(vibraslap) mf

To Vibraphone

ord.

p

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

pp

very expressively

p dolce

mp

79 80 81 82 83 84

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

mp

arco

p

mp

p

85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln. *pp*

Vc.

Pno.

94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *p* *mp*

Pno. *pp* *p*

subito mf *p* *subito mf* *p*

101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

mp

mp

mf

pp

To Bass Drum

p

110 111 112 113 114 115

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

BD

Pno.

f

jet whistle

subito ff

Scratch tone, irregular tremolo
morse code-like.
Try to get some high frequency noise

subito mf

p

subito ff

subito mf

p

subito ff

p

subito ff

8

116 117 118 119 120 121 122

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

BD

Pno.

pp

very glassy and fragile

slow bow over fingerboard, gradual high pressure (creaky ship)

pp

mp

solo (take your time)

Wait for B.D. to get into a full roll.

pp

(8va sempre)

(8vb sempre)

downwards jet whistle shheeeooooo-

123 124 125 126 127

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

BD

Pno.

pp

(creaky boat)

pp

II

3

mp

128 **129** 130 131 132 133

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Tam

BD

Pno.

To Tam-tam

like raindrops (hold pedal)

big soft mallets

pp

p dolce

p dolce

134 **135** 136 137 138 139

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Tam

BD

Pno.

jet whistle

p dolce

f

mp

3

p

*slow bow, above fingerboard
gradually apply more pressure.*

+ Bass Drum

140 141 142 143 144

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Tam

BD

Pno.

pp

p

slow bow, above fingerboard
gradually apply more pressure.

145 146 147 148 149 150

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

BD

Pno.

pp

pp

varying in speed (for 15 measures)

8^{va}

151 152 153 154 155 156

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

BD

Pno.

(creaky boat)

8 II

gliss.

(pass off gliss to cello)

(pick up gliss from violin)

pp

157 158 159 160 161 W.T. (unsteady)

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

BD

Pno.

slow bow, above fingerboard
gradually apply more pressure.

very slow, somewhat broken
creaky ship sound

ppp

ppp 8

palms on white
and black keys

Flute

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3/4 air

tr

cue vibes.

f

p

10

just air, chromatic down, into 3/4 air trill

tr

7

ord.

11

cue. Vc.

fp

f

3

W.T. (unsteady)

21

cue. vibr.

blow air, very little pitch

pp

f

25

ord.

24

p

3

29

3

3

3

3

34

35

flz.

f

unsteady, like it takes a few beats to actually find the harmonic.

Solo

37

pp

p

43 *mf* Solo **46** gradually molto vib.

49 *p* ord. vib. gradually molto vib. **54** ord. vib. flz. *mp*

55 *pp* ord. *p*

61 *pp* W.T. (gradually wavering in pitch) fall **65**

67 *p* cue. B. Cl. **72** 6

78 *mp* cue. Vc.

82 *mp* **84** *p*

86 *3*

90

96

102

108

115

125

134

140

157

98

106

118

129

135

146

154

pp

p

mp

f

p

mp

p

ppp

jet whistle

jet whistle

downwards jet whistle shheeeooooo-

cue B. Cl.

cue. Vln

W.T. (unsteady)

(very low piano)

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♩ = 72, Dour, Sinking Feeling

[illegible]

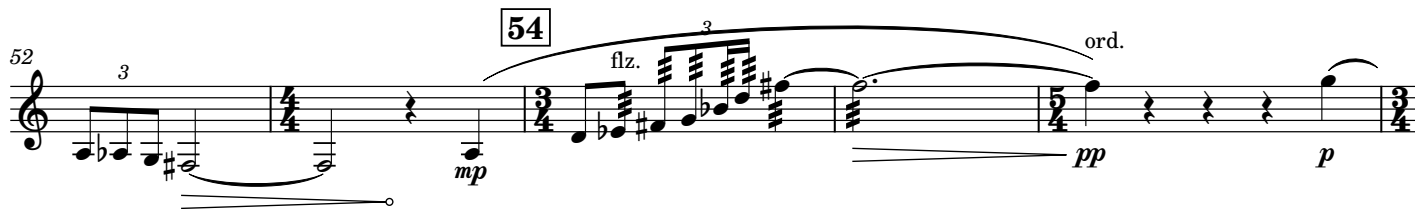
2

46

(cue fl.)

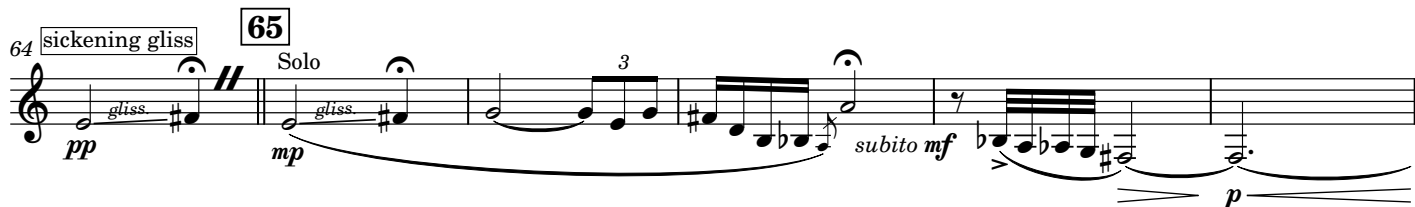


54

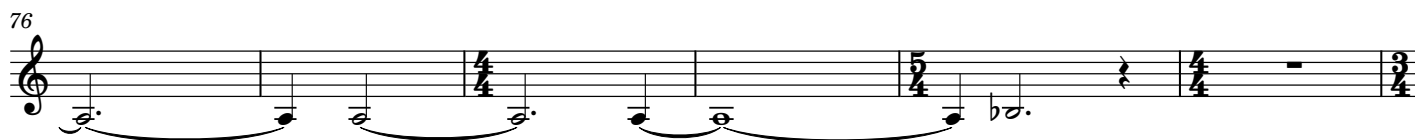
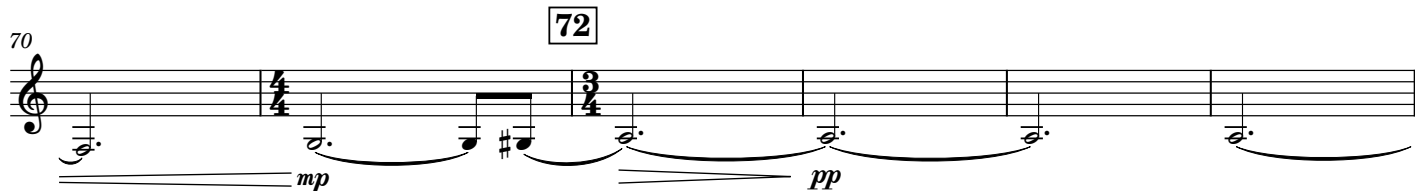


65

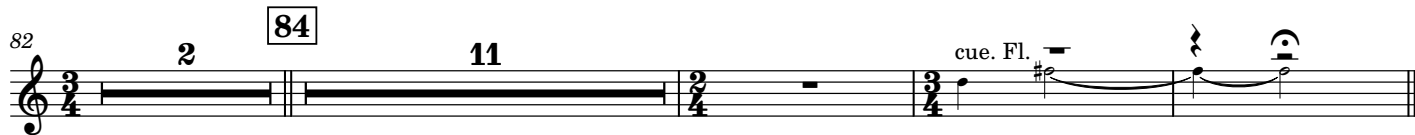
Solo



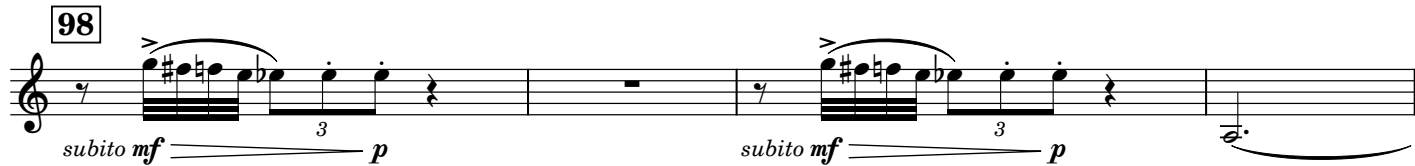
72



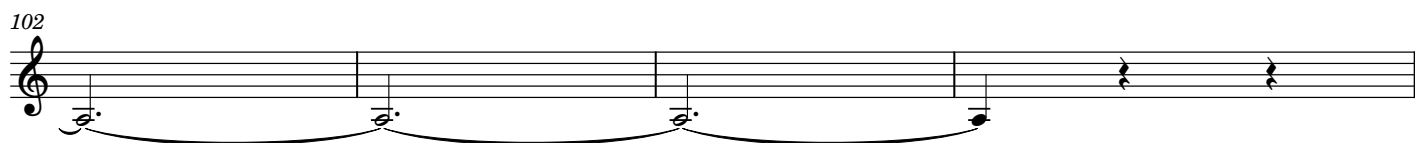
84



98



102



106

mf

112

subito ff *pp*

118

B.D. Pno. 4

p

127

2 129 4 cue. Vln. 135

p dolce

137

143

2 146

pp

150

154

156

Violin

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9 10 cue. Vc. *fp* *pp*

14 2 pizz. *mp* until flute dies away 21 cue. vibr. 3

22 3 5 arco 25 *p* *pp*

28 3 3 3

33 3 35 9 *f*

45 46 7 54 cue. Fl. (play) *p*

57 3 3 65 cue. B. Cl. 3

67 Scratch tone, irregular tremolo morse code-like 8 ord. pizz. *mf* *mp*

2

72 72 6 cue. Vc. arco 3

82 84 2 *pp*

89 *mp* expressively 3

95 98 3 *pp*

103 106 3 *mp*

109 3

Scratch tone, irregular tremolo
morse code-like.
Try to get some high frequency noise.

very glassy and fragile

114 *subito ff* *pp*

118 B.D. cue Pno. *pp*

124 (creaky boat) II 8 2

129 cue. Pno. *p dolce*

135

141 146

147 (creaky boat) I II 8 3 *pp*

154 II 8 (pass off gliss to cello) 5

Violoncello

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6

cue Pno.

p

10

dramatically

fp *f* *mp*

11

3

3

f

mp

14

3

mf

mp

pizz.

19

until flute dies away

21

cue. vibr.

arco

pp

25

arco

p

29

35

9

cue. Fl.

f

46

(cue fl.)



52

54



slow bow over fingerboard,
gradual high pressure
(creaky ship)

61

65

cue. B. Cl.

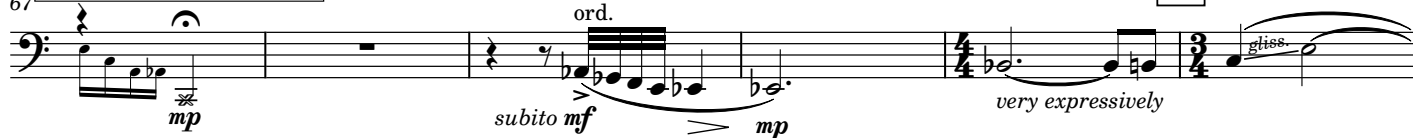


slow bow over fingerboard,
high pressure (creaky ship)

67

ord.

72



73

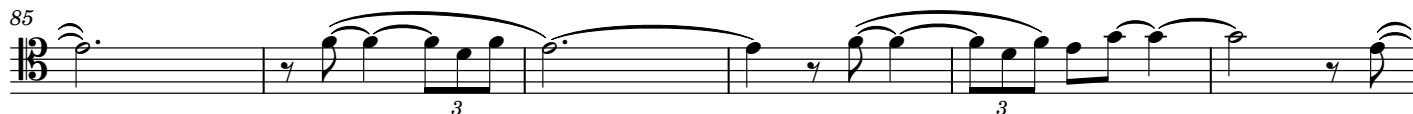


79

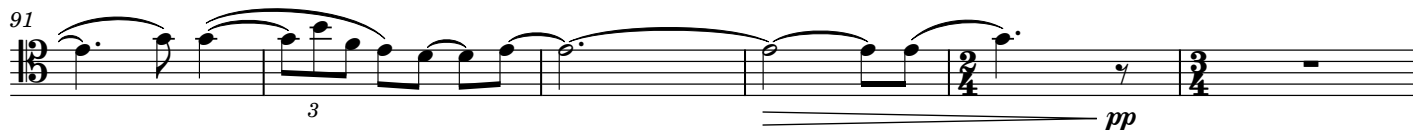
84



85



91



97 98

p *mp* 3 3

103 106

pp

109

subito mf 3 *p* *subito ff*

115 118 B.D. Pno. 10 129

slow bow over fingerboard,
gradual high pressure
(creaky ship)

mp *cue. Pno*

130 135

p dolce

slow bow, above fingerboard
gradually apply more pressure.

136

p

142 146

pp

slow bow, above fingerboard
gradually apply more pressure.

148 154

pp

(pick up gliss
from violin)

gliss.

157

ppp

slow bow, above fingerboard
gradually apply more pressure.

very slow, somewhat broken
creaky ship sound

Tam-tam
Vibraphone
Bass Drum
Mark Tree
Vibraslap

Dylan Fitzhenry

♩ = 72, Dour, Sinking Feeling

back of vibes mallet, somewhat scraping

To Vibraphone

The musical score for measures 1-35 is as follows:

- Measure 1:** Tam-tam (bowed) *pp*. Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 2:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 3:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 4:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 5:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 6:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 7:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 8:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 9:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 10:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 11:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 12:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 13:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 14:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 15:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 16:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 17:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 18:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 19:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 20:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 21:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 22:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 23:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 24:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 25:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 26:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 27:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 28:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 29:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 30:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 31:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 32:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 33:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 34:** Vib. (5) *p*.
- Measure 35:** Vib. (5) *p*.

37

Vib.

Tam

L.V.

3

cue Fl.

Mark Tree

45

Vib.

Tam

cue. Fl.

46

tapping (back of mallets)

3

p

50

Vib.

Tam

3

To Vibes

54

3

p

55

Vib.

3

p

60

Vib.

Tam

p

Tam-tam

p

bowed

pp

65

Tam

3

one big scrape (back of mallet)

p

mf

+Vibraslap (still holding one vibraphone mallet)

3

mf

(vibraslap)

To Vibraphone

4/4

3/4

4/4

3/4

Vib. 72

p dolce

Vib. 77

Vib. 82 84 11 2

Vib. 98 cue. Vc. *mp* *p* *pp*

Vib. 104 106 6

BD To Bass Drum 6 3 *mp* *subito ff*

BD 115 3 *f* *mp* *p* 118 solo (take your time) *mp* *pp*

BD 120

BD 126 129 To Tam-tam 2

131 big soft mallets

Tam 135

pp

4

140

Tam *pp*

BD *p*

3

3

146 varying in speed (for 15 measures)

BD *pp*

154

BD

158

BD

Piano

Night Drags By

Dylan Fitzhenry

♩ = 72, Dour, Sinking Feeling

10

11

16

21

25

pp

p

f

tr

8

until flute dies away

2

26

Musical score for measures 26-30. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The treble staff contains a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic at measure 26, followed by a *p* dynamic at measure 28. The bass staff contains a bass line with a *p* dynamic at measure 26. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns and triplet markings (3) in measures 29 and 30. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned below the bass staff.

31

Musical score for measures 31-34. The system consists of a grand staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with triplet markings (3) in measures 31 and 32. The bass staff has a bass line with a *pp* dynamic at measure 32. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns and triplet markings (3) in measures 31 and 32. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned below the bass staff.

35

Musical score for measures 35-42. The system consists of a grand staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a *cue Fl.* marking at measure 38. The bass staff has a bass line with a *f* dynamic at measure 35. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns and triplet markings (3) in measures 36 and 37. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned below the bass staff. The text "L.V." is written below the bass staff.

43

Musical score for measures 43-45. The system consists of a grand staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a triplet marking (3) in measure 43. The bass staff has a bass line with a *pp* dynamic at measure 44. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns and triplet markings (3) in measures 43 and 44. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned below the bass staff. The text "Slow, ad lib." is written above the bass staff.

46

Musical score for measures 53-57. The system consists of a grand staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a triplet marking (3) in measure 53. The bass staff has a bass line with a *pp* dynamic at measure 54. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns and triplet markings (3) in measures 53 and 54. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned below the bass staff.

58

Musical score for measures 58-61. The system consists of a grand staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a *cue. B. Cl.* marking at measure 58. The bass staff has a bass line with a *pp* dynamic at measure 59. Both staves feature eighth-note patterns and triplet markings (3) in measures 58 and 59. A dashed line with the number 8 is positioned below the bass staff. The text "(play)" is written above the bass staff.

62

65

8

68

72

p *ord.* *mp*

4/4 3/4

73

4/4 3/4

79

84

p

4/4 3/4

85

4/4 3/4

91

4/4 3/4

96 98

98

pp *p*

102 106

106

p

110

subito *mf* *p* *subito ff*

116 118 Wait for B.D to get into a full roll.

8va sempre *pp* 8vb sempre

121

126

129

like raindrops (hold pedal)

135

146

154

157

ppp

8

palms on white and black keys