

beneath / sound

SATB choir, harp, violin, cello, and percussion

Duration ca. 7'30"

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

WORDS BY

Yaya Yao



beneath/sound

Instrumentation:

SATB

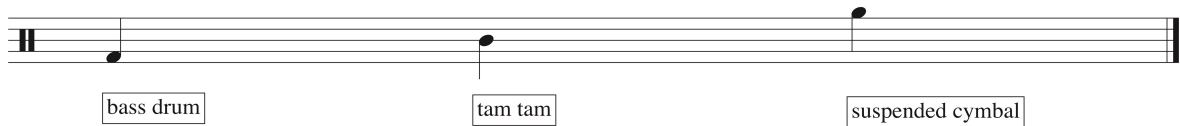
Harp (and soft mallet)

Violin

Cello

Percussion (suspended cymbal, tam tam, bass drum, bow, triangle beater/coin, soft mallets, and superball mallet)

Percussion legend:



Text:

sound by Yaya Yao. From "Flesh, Tongue."

beneath throat, breath

beneath breath, earth

beneath earth, stone

beneath

stone, liquid

beneath liquid, vein

beneath vein, fire

beneath fire, darkness

beneath darkness

the sound

of beneath

Program note & compositional approach:

Among other things, what drew me to Yaya's poem was its evocative natural imagery, use of repetition, and unique spatialization. I was interested in exploring how I might be able to convey these aspects musically; a unique challenge! After selecting this text, I spent a significant amount of time marking up a printed copy of the poem. This included highlighting key words, drawing images or marking descriptive words to show what a section might sound like (including their textures/densities), dividing the text into sections, and creating an overall shape for the piece. After this, I worked on creating the material for each section through a combination of vocal and piano improvisation. For some portions I created my own 'mock ups' to get a better sense of the effectiveness of certain ideas. Afterwards, I pieced everything together and chipped away to a final product that, I hope, conveys the earthly beauty and mystery of this poem!

beneath/sound

Yaya Yao

Katerina Gimon

Ethereal ♩ = 60

The musical score is arranged in a vertical stack of staves. From top to bottom, the staves are: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Harp (with two staves), Violin, Cello, and Percussion. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Ethereal ♩ = 60'. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'PERUSSAI SCORE' is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page. The Percussion staff includes a box labeled 'cymbal' and the instruction 'bow (slowly and continuously; wispy and aethereal)'. The dynamic marking 'mp' is placed below the Percussion staff.

* a few voices echo

6 Mysterious ♩ = 88

mf bright tone

S

ah ey oh

A

T

mf

be - neath throat, breath

Rapid non-pitched rearticulation: breathing ('ha ha'), glottals, ts ts, etc.

transition individually to whispers

B

mf *p*

Hp.

mf

free bowing, moving between sul tasto and sul pont

Vln.

free bowing, moving between sul tasto and sul pont

Vc.

mf scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater)

scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater)

Perc.

sfz

mf

* a few voices echo: 2 to 3 singers will enter after the soprano section and sing the phrase as a quasi-echo. All singers will cut off together on the sustain at the end of each phrase once the echo voices have 'caught up.'

12

S a few voices echo
ah ey oh

A ah oh

T be - neath ___ breath, ___ earth

B repeat, individually, whispering
[flesh, tongue/
throat, breath]

** Rapid non-pitched rearticulation:
breathing ('ha ha'), glottals, ts ts, etc. transition individually

mf *p*

Hp. *pp* bisbigliando *mf* (A^b)

Vln.

Vc.

Perc. bow (slowly as before) scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater) scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater)

p *sfz* *mf*

** rapid non-pitched rearticulations: following the decay of the cymbal scrape, produce quick, non-pitched, repeated sounds that fade away and decrease in frequency. Ex: ts ts ts ts ts ts ts ts ts ts ts

18

S *f* a few voices echo
ah ——— ey oh ———

A *f*
ah ey oh ———

T *f* be - neath earth, ——— stone ——— *mf* be -

B repeat, individually, whispering (unvoiced) *sfz* *p* repeat individually, spoken
[flesh, tongue/ throat, breath] [flesh, tongue/ throat, breath]

Hp. *pp bisbigliando* *sfz* *sfz* *8va* (A:)

Vln. free bowing ends *f* *p*

Vc. free bowing ends *f*

Perc. bow (slowly as before) *p* scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater) *sfz* soft mallets *pp*

transition individually

24

mf a few voices echo

S

ah ey oh

A

ah ey oh

T

neath

Rapid non-pitched rearticulation:
breathing ('ha ha'), glottals, ts ts, etc.

transition individually

B

mf *p*

repeat, individually, spoken

[flesh, tongue/
throat, breath]

Hp.

bisbigliando
pp *mf*

Vln.

pp *mf*

Vc.

mf

Perc.

mf

29

A

p

S

breath

p

A

breath

mp

T

be - neath throat, breath be - neath be - neath

mp

B

be - neath throat, breath be - neath be - neath

Hp.

mp

Vln.

mp *p* *mp*

Vc.

mp *p* *mp*

Perc.

p

soft mallet scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater) soft mallet

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The score will continue on the following page.

42

B

The musical score consists of several staves. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in the upper half, with lyrics: "be - neath be - neath earth, stone be -". The instrumental parts include Harp (Hp.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Percussion (Perc.). The score features dynamic markings such as *f* and *mf*, and includes a section labeled 'B'. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. A large watermark 'Perusal Score' is overlaid on the page.

47

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are at the top, followed by the Harp (Hp.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Percussion (Perc.). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics for the vocal parts are: "neath stone li - quid be - neath _____ be - neath _____ be -". The dynamics for the vocal parts are *mp*, *p*, and *pp*. The Harp part consists of sustained chords. The Violin and Viola parts have dynamics of *mp* and *p*. The Percussion part has dynamics of *p* and *pp*. A large watermark "Perusal Score" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

52

C Triumphant ♩ = 112

S
neath — be - neath — be - neath earth, *f*

A
neath — be - neath — be - neath earth, *f*

T
pp be - neath — be - neath — *f* bright tone ah ey — oh

B
pp be - neath — be - neath — *f* bright tone ah ey — oh

Hp.
f

Vln.
pp *f* *fp*

Vc.
pp *f* *fp*

Perc.
bow soft mallet
mp *mf* bass drum
soft mallet

57

The musical score is for the piece "beneath/sound" and is page 13. It features a vocal quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and instrumental accompaniment. The vocal parts have the following lyrics: Soprano: "stone — be-neath stone, li- quid be - neath li- quid,"; Alto: "stone — be- neath stone, li- quid be - neath li- quid,"; Tenor: "ah ey — oh ah — ah ey — oh"; Bass: "Ah ey — oh ah — ah ey — oh". The instrumental parts include Harp (Hp.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Percussion (Perc.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *fp*, *p*, and *mf*. The Percussion part features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of the vocal line.

63

S
vein _____ be - neath vein fire _____

A
vein _____ be - neath vein fire _____ *gliss.* *gliss.*

T
_____ ah ey _____ oh ah _____

B
_____ Ah ey _____ oh ah _____

Hp.

Vln.
f *fp* *f*

Vc.
f *fp* *f*

Perc.
p *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 14, is titled 'beneath/sound'. It features a vocal quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and instrumental parts for Harp, Violin, Viola, and Percussion. The score is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'vein', 'be - neath vein', and 'fire'. The Soprano and Alto parts include glissando markings. The Tenor and Bass parts have vocalizations 'ah ey oh ah' and 'Ah ey oh ah'. The Harp part has a tremolo effect. The Violin and Viola parts have dynamic markings of *f*, *fp*, and *f*. The Percussion part has dynamic markings of *p*, *mf*, and *f*, with triplet markings.

With growing intensity ♩ = 88

D

S *mp*

A *mp*

T *quietly energetic mp* *poco* *simile*
be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness

B *quietly energetic mp* *poco* *simile*
be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness

Hp. *mp*
hit soundboard w/ soft mallet

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *mp*
tap body of cello w/ fingers

Perc.

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The score will continue on the following page.

86

mf

S *mf*
dark - ness, dark - ness _____ dark - ness, dark - ness

mf simile

A *mf simile*
dark - ness, dark-ness _____ be - neath fire _____ dark - ness, dark-ness _____

T
be-neath fire, dark-ness, darkness be-neath fire, darkness, darkness be-neath fire, dark-ness, darkness

B
be-neath fire, dark-ness, darkness be-neath fire, darkness, darkness be-neath fire, dark-ness, darkness

Hp.
[Piano accompaniment]

Vln. *arco*
[Violin part]

Vc.
[Violoncello part]

Perc. *with triangle beater*
mf
[Percussion part]

E

S *f* ² be - neath dark - ness dark-ness, dark - ness ² be - neath dark- *divisi*

A *f* ² be - neath fire dark - ness, dark - ness ² be - neath fire

T *f* be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark - ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark - ness

B *f* be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark - ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark - ness

Hp. *f*

Vln. *f* *simile*

Vc. *f* ²

with triangle beater

Perc. *f* soft mallet

98

cresc. poco a poco

S 1
- ness dark - ness, dark - ness fire _____ fire _____

S 2
- ness dark - ness, dark - ness _____ be - neath dark - ness

A
dark - ness, dark - ness _____ be - neath fire _____ dark - ness, dark - ness

T
8 be - neath fire, dark - ness, dark - ness be - neath fire, dark - ness, dark - ness be - neath fire,

B
be - neath fire, dark - ness, dark - ness be - neath fire, dark - ness, dark - ness be - neath fire,

cresc. poco a poco

Hp.
cresc. poco a poco

Vln.
cresc. poco a poco

Vc.
arco

Perc.
cresc. poco a poco

This page has been intentionally left blank.

The score will continue on the following page.

108

ff (♩ = ♩)

S
ness the sound

ff

A
the sound

ff

T
the sound

ff

B
the sound

Hp.

ff

Vln. *8va*

ff

Vc.

ff

Perc. *f*

113

S
[beneath liquid, vein /
beneath vein, fire]

A
[beneath fire, darkness /
beneath darkness the sound of]

T
[beneath earth stone /
beneath stone, liquid]

B
[beneath throat, breath /
beneath breath, earth]

Hp.

Vln. *con sordino*

Vc. *subito mp* *n*

Perc. *soft mallet*

recite the given text, individually (loudly spoken, dramatically, vary register)

transition individually

F

Mysterious ♩ = 88

118

S *n*

A *n*

T *n*

B *n* *f* *mf*

the sound the

Hp.

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp*

molto sul tasto

Vc. *p*

Perc.

123

S
A
T
B

sound _____ the sound _____ of be-

Hp.

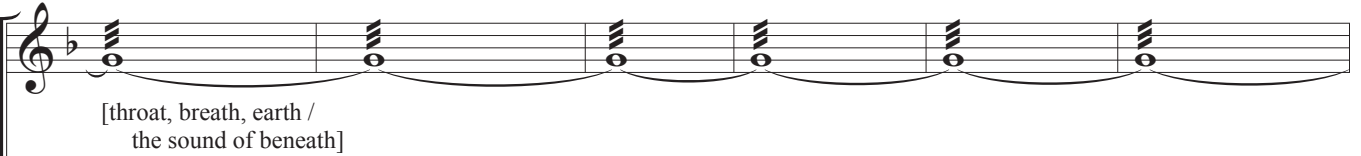
Vln.
Vc.

p *pp*

Perc.

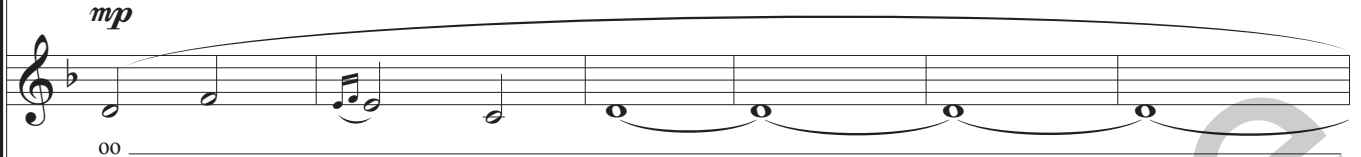
128 *p* recite the given text, individually

S



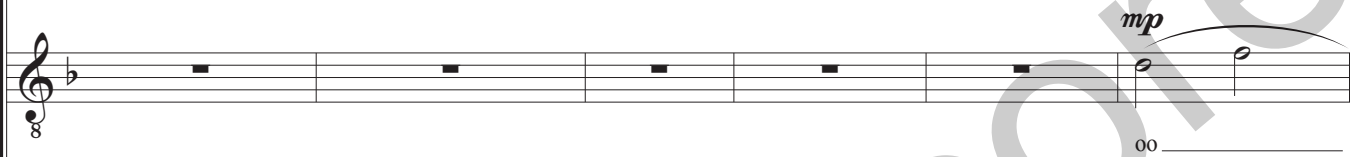
[throat, breath, earth /
the sound of beneath]

A




oo

T



oo

B



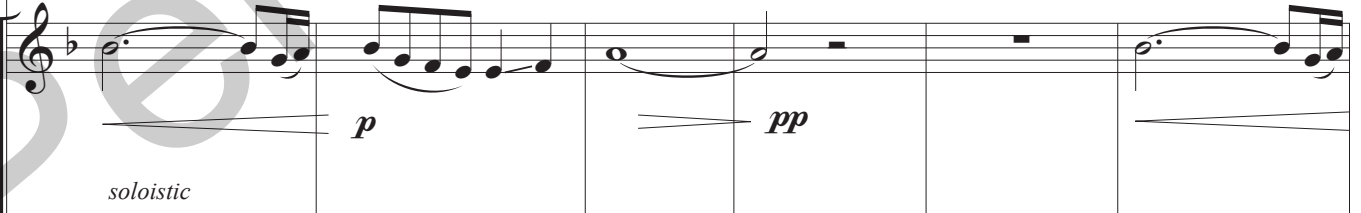
neath the sound of be - neath

Hp.



mp

Vln.



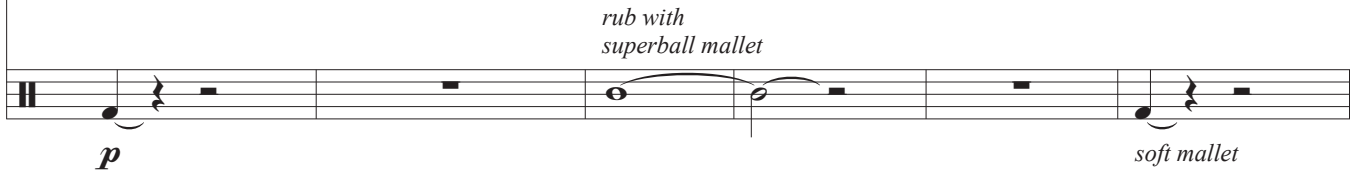
p *pp*
soloistic

Vc.



mf *p*

Perc.



p *rub with superballet* *soft mallet*

134

n

p a few voices echo

S

oo

A

p

[throat, breath, earth /
the sound of beneath]

T

p

oo

B

mp

be - neath

Hp.

p

Vln.

p

pp

p

Vc.

< mf

p

Perc.

*rub with
superball mallet*

soft mallet

140

a few voices echo

rit.

S

A

T

B

p

be - neath

Hp.

Vln.

pp

Vc.

Perc.

rub with superball mallet

soft mallet

rub with superball mallet