

beneath / sound

SATB choir, piano, and percussion

Duration ca. 7'30"

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimón

WORDS BY

Yaya Yao



beneath / sound

For SATB with piano and percussion

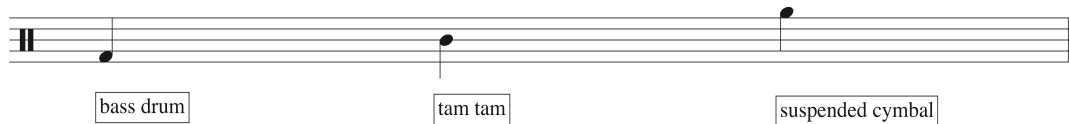
Instrumentation:

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

Available in three versions:

- 1) SATB with harp, violin, cello, and percussion
- 2) SATB with piano and percussion
- 3) SATB with piano (also doubles as choir score for ensemble versions)

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 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 combinational 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!

Full Score

beneath / sound

For SATB with piano and percussion

Yaya Yao

Katerina Gimon

Ethereal ♩ = 60

The musical score is arranged in a system with five staves. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The Percussion part features a cymbal with a bow, marked 'mp' and 'very freely, soloistic'. The Piano part is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats, marked 'p' and 'ad lib.'. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Percussion

cymbal
bow (slowly and continuously, wispy and aetherial)

mp

very freely, soloistic

p

r.h.

r.h.

ad lib.

6 **Mysterious** ♩ = 88

* a few voices echo
mf bright tone

S
ah ey oh

A

T
mf
8
be-neath throat, breath

B
mf *p*
Rapid non-pitched rearticulation:
breathing ('ha ha'), glottals, ts ts, etc.
transition individually to whispers

Perc.
scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater) *sfz* scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater) *mf*

Pno.

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The tempo is marked 'Mysterious' with a quarter note equal to 88. The key signature has two flats. The Soprano part has lyrics 'ah ey oh' and a performance instruction '* a few voices echo' with a dynamic of *mf* 'bright tone'. The Alto and Tenor parts have lyrics 'be-neath throat, breath'. The Bass part has a dynamic of *mf* and *p*. The Percussion part has instructions 'scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater)' and dynamics *sfz* and *mf*. The Piano part has a dynamic of *mf* and a triplet of eighth notes.

* 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
8
be-neath _ breath, _ earth _

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

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

Pno.
pp *mf* 3

** *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
A
T
B
Perc.
Pno.

a few voices echo

f ah ey oh

f ah ey oh

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

repeat, individually, whispering (unvoiced) *sfz* *p* repeat individually, spoken

[flesh, tongue/ throat, breath] [flesh, tongue/ throat, breath]

p *sfz* *pp*

bow (slowly as before) scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater) soft mallets

pp *f*

3

24 *mf* a few voices echo

S
ah ey oh

A
mf
ah ey oh

T
neath

B
mf *p* repeat, individually, spoken
[flesh, tongue/
throat, breath]

Perc.

Pno.
mf *p* *mf*

transition individually

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

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in the upper staves, and the piano accompaniment (Percussion and Piano) is in the lower staves. The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics 'ah ey oh' and are marked *mf*. The Tenor part has the lyric 'neath'. The Bass part has a series of 'x' marks representing non-pitched sounds, with a dynamic marking of *mf* followed by *p*. The Percussion part has a series of vertical lines representing rhythmic patterns. The Piano part has chords and a melodic line, with dynamic markings of *mf* and *p*. The score includes various performance instructions such as 'a few voices echo', 'transition individually', and 'Rapid non-pitched rearticulation: breathing ('ha ha'), glottals, ts ts, etc.'.

29 A

S *p*
breath

A *p*
breath

T *mp*
be - neath throat, breath _____ be - neath _____ be - neath _____

B *mp*
be - neath throat, breath _____ be - neath _____ be - neath _____

Perc. *soft mallet* *scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater)* *soft mallet*

Pno. *mp*

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. The Soprano and Alto parts are marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and have the word 'breath' written below the notes. The Tenor and Bass parts are marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and have the lyrics 'be - neath throat, breath _____ be - neath _____ be - neath _____' written below. The Percussion part includes instructions for 'soft mallet' and 'scrape (w/ coin or triangle beater)'. The Piano part is marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features a complex accompaniment with various textures and dynamics.

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The score will continue on the following page.

42

S *f* **B** *mf*
be - neath be - neath earth, stone be -

A *f* *mf*
be - neath be - neath earth, stone be -

T *mf*
be - neath

B *mf*
be - neath be - neath

Perc.

Pno. *f*

47

S *mp* *p* *pp*
neath stone li - quid be - neath _____ be - neath _____ be -

A *mp* *p* *pp*
neath stone li - quid be - neath _____ be - neath _____ be -

T *mp* *p*
8 be - neath _____ be - neath _____ be - neath _____

B *mp* *p*
be - neath _____ be - neath _____ be - neath _____

Perc. *p* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p*

52

C Triumphant ♩ = 112

S

neath — be - neath — be-neath — earth,

A

neath — be - neath — be-neath — earth,

T

be - neath — be - neath — ah ey — oh —

B

be - neath — be - neath — ah ey — oh —

Perc.

bow mp soft mallet mf bass drum soft mallet

Pno.

pp f p

57

S
stone _____ be-neath stone, li- quid be-neath li- quid,

A
stone _____ be-neath stone, li- quid be-neath li- quid,

T
_____ ah ey oh ah _____ ah ey oh _____

B
_____ Ah ey oh ah _____ ah ey oh _____

Perc.
p *mf* *p* *mf*

Pno.
f *p* *f* *p*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Percussion (Perc.), plus a grand staff for Piano (Pno.). The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'stone', 'be-neath stone, li- quid', and 'be-neath li- quid,'. The Tenor and Bass parts have vocalizations 'ah ey oh ah'. The Percussion part has dynamics *p* and *mf*. The Piano part has dynamics *f* and *p*. A large watermark 'Petersal' is visible across the page.

63

S
vein _____ be-neath vein fire _____

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

T
8 _____ ah ey _____ oh ah _____

B
_____ Ah ey _____ oh ah _____

Perc.
p *mf* *f*

Pno.
f *p* *f*

The musical score is for a vocal and instrumental piece. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The lyrics are: 'vein _____ be-neath vein fire _____'. The Soprano and Alto parts have glissando markings over the final notes. The Tenor and Bass parts have lyrics 'ah ey _____ oh ah _____' and 'Ah ey _____ oh ah _____' respectively. The Percussion part includes dynamic markings *p*, *mf*, and *f*, and features triplet rhythms. The Piano part includes dynamic markings *f*, *p*, and *f*, and features triplet rhythms. The score is marked with a box containing the number 63.

With growing intensity ♩. = 88

D

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Soprano (S):** Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Features a melodic line with a long slur and a *mp* dynamic marking.
- Alto (A):** Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Features a melodic line with a long slur and a *mp* dynamic marking.
- Tenor (T):** Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Lyrics: "be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness". Performance markings include *mp*, *quietly energetic*, *poco*, and *simile*.
- Bass (B):** Bass clef, 6/8 time signature. Lyrics: "be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness". Performance markings include *mp*, *quietly energetic*, *poco*, and *simile*.
- Perc.:** Percussion staff with a drum set icon and a series of rhythmic pulses.
- Pno.:** Grand piano part with treble and bass staves. Features a wavy line in the treble staff and a *mp* dynamic marking.

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The score will continue on the following page.

86 *mf*

S
dark-ness, dark - ness _____ dark-ness, dark - ness

A
mf simile
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, dark-ness, dark-ness

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

Perc.
with triangle beater
mf

Pno.
mf

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a vocal ensemble and piano. It begins at measure 86. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) sing the lyrics 'dark-ness, dark - ness' and 'be - neath fire'. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The percussion part uses a triangle beater. Performance markings include 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'mf simile'.

E

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

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

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

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

Perc.
with triangle beater
f soft mallet

Pno.
f

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled 'beneath / sound', page 19. It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Percussion (Perc.), plus a Piano (Pno.) section. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The Soprano part begins with a box containing the letter 'E'. The lyrics are: 'be - neath dark - ness dark-ness, dark - ness be - neath dark -' for Soprano, 'be - neath fire dark - ness, dark - ness be - neath fire' for Alto, 'be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark - ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark-ness be-neath fire, dark-ness, dark - ness' for Tenor and Bass. The Percussion part is marked 'with triangle beater' and 'f soft mallet'. The Piano part is marked 'f' and features a melodic line with accents and a second ending bracket. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *divisi* for the Soprano. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and accents.

98

cresc. poco a poco

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

cresc. poco a poco

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

cresc. poco a poco

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

cresc. poco a poco

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

cresc. poco a poco

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

Perc.
cresc. poco a poco

Pno.

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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

Perc.

f

Pno.

ff

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]

Perc.
soft mallet

Pno.

transition individually

recite the given text, individually

(loudly spoken, dramatically, vary register)

F Mysterious ♩ = 88

118

S *n*

A *n*

T *n*

B *n* *f* *mf*

the sound the

Perc.

Pno.

123

S

A

T

B

sound _____ the sound _____ of be -

Perc.

Pno.

128 *p* recite the given text, individually

S

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

A

T

B

Perc.

Pno.

134

n *p* a few voices echo

S

p

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

T *p*

B *mp* be - neath

Perc. *rub with superbball mallet* *soft mallet*

Pno.

140

a few voices echo

rit. -----

S

oo

A

oo

T

8

p

rit. -----

B

be - neath

rub with superbball mallet

soft mallet

rit. -----

soft mallet

rub with superbball mallet

Perc.

Pno.