

# beneath / sound

SATB choir with piano (or ensemble)

Duration ca. 7'30"

MUSIC BY

*Katerina Gimón*

WORDS BY

*Yaya Yao*



# beneath / sound

For SATB with piano  
(also choir score for ensemble versions)

## Available in three versions:

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

## 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!

# beneath / sound

For SATB with piano  
(also choir score for ensemble versions)

Yaya Yao

Katerina Gimon

Ethereal ♩ = 60

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

cymbal  
bowed

*mp*

*p*

*very freely, soloistic*

r.h.

r.h.

*Ad. ad lib.*

NOTE: if performing the choir and piano version of *beneath/sound*, skip the first two measures (which feature percussion only) and begin where the piano enters at the pickup to measure 3.

6 **Mysterious** ♩ = 88

\* a few voices echo  
*mf* bright tone

S  
ah ey oh

A

T  
*mf*  
be-neath throat, breath

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

Pno.

The musical score is set in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as 'Mysterious' with a quarter note equal to 88 beats per minute. The Soprano part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'ah ey oh' on a long note. The Alto and Tenor parts also have rests. The Tenor part then plays a melodic line with the lyrics 'be-neath throat, breath'. The Bass part consists of a series of 'x' marks, indicating non-pitched sounds, with dynamic markings of *mf* and *p*. The Piano accompaniment features chords and melodic lines, with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand towards the end of the section.

\* *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*

Pno. *pp* *mf* 3

\*\* *rapid non-pitched rearticulations*: 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. For the versions with percussion, follow the decay of the cymbal scrape. For the choir and piano version, mimic the decay of a cymbal.

a few voices echo

18

S *f* ah ——— ey oh ———

A *f* ah ey oh ———

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

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

Pno. *pp* *f* 3



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*

repeat, individually, spoken

B

*mf* *p*

[flesh, tongue/  
throat, breath]

Pno.

*mf* *p* *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 \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

36

*mp*

S

earth be - neath \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

A

Be - neath breath, earth \_\_\_\_\_ be - neath \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

T

be - neath breath, earth \_\_\_\_\_ be - neath \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

B

be - neath breath, earth \_\_\_\_\_ be - neath \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

Pno.

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*The score will continue on the following page.*

52

C Triumphant ♩ = 112

*f*

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

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

T *pp* be - neath — be - neath — ah ey — oh

B *pp* be - neath — be - neath — ah ey — oh

*f* bright tone

*f* bright tone

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 —

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

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

Pno.  
*f* *p* *f*

D

With growing intensity ♩. = 88

S \_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

A \_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

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

Pno.  
*mp*

*quietly energetic mp* *poco* *simile*

74

S

A

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

Pno.

80

S

A  
*mp* 2  
 be - neath fire

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

Pno.

86

*mf*

S dark-ness, dark - ness \_\_\_\_\_ dark-ness, dark - ness

*mf simile*  
2

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

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

Pno. *mf*

E

*f*  
2

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

*f*  
2

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

*f*

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

*f*

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

Pno. *f*

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  
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,

Pno.

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108

S  
ness the sound

A  
the sound

T  
the sound

B  
the sound

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]

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

Pno.

123

S

A

T

B

sound \_\_\_\_\_ the sound \_\_\_\_\_ of be -

Pno.

128 *p* recite the given text, individually

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

A *mp*

T *mp*

B neath the sound of be - neath

Pno.

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134 *n* *p* a few voices echo

S *p*

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

T *p*

B *mp* be - neath

Pno.

