

Michael Matthews

Sky Rings

for B \flat clarinet and tape

winter is when snakes
turn into garter belts and greater & greater wind
welts up in us in
creases of white
needles of ice seed in our eyes
sift ether into ditches
thats when air hardens
to whale bone wraps us up
in girdles and the sky rings
our lives in pewter & silver
plate irons our days smooth as Dresden
the blue-in-June lakes are eyes lidded shut
with silver coins or the czarina's jewel
boxes clasped in the knuckle
popping cold of the winter
palace and its glass eyes
dangle from ivory lace
& the air tinkles like cut glass

Dennis Cooley

Commissioned by Esther Lamneck.

Technical Notes:

Minimum Requirements: High-quality stereo playback. Multiple-speaker configurations may be used, which, depending on the performance space, may necessitate mild amplification of the clarinet part. In this case the goal of keeping the clarinet and electronic sounds aurally together must be kept in mind.

The performance of this piece should reflect a certain spirit of intimacy, and in an ideal setting the speakers for the audio playback should be in reasonably close proximity to the bass clarinet. The two sound sources (acoustic and electronic) should seem to emanate from the same location, or to be more precise, the bass clarinet sound should "sit inside" the electronic sounds.

The audio part is designed to be played at a constant volume setting throughout the performance, but different acoustical settings may make it appropriate for a sound technician to make subtle amplitude adjustments to the sound during the performance.

Dedicated to Esther Lamneck

Sky Rings

Michael Matthews

25"

N.B. — The alignment of timings with the score is approximate.

32"

Clarinet in B \flat

$\text{♩} = 64$

p *pp* *mp*

"clanging" "bell" "swelling" sounds

color fingerings?

N.B. — Not all tape sounds are shown in the score, only selected cues for reference.

46"

7 *piu mosso* ($\text{♩} = 72$)

pp

(fading away...) (fading in...)

color fingerings?

"swell"

1' 02"

12

mp *fmp* *f*

1' 14"

14

fp *f* *f* *ff* *mf* *dim.*

series of swells

16

mp *p* *mf* *f*

18

mp *mf* *mf* *f*

(swells fade away...)

20

1' 32"

p *p dolce* *mp* *p*

two swells, M.3rd apart

descending third

24

mp *p* *mf* *f*

26

1' 52"

1' 55"

mf *mp* *p*

filtered "clang"

28

mf *p* *mp* *p*

31

2' 08"

♩ = 96

mf *mp* *mf* *mf*

series of swells

33 2' 11"

f *mf* *f*

35 2' 21"

mp *cresc.* *f* *mp* *mf*

37

p *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mp*

(sounds fade away...)

40 2' 35"

mf *p* *dim.*

42

p

44

cresc. *mf*

2' 55"

3' 08"

Tempo I (♩ = 64)

48

ppp
with longing

p *mf*

(sounds fade in...)

3' 26"

3' 38"

56

mp *f* *p* *mp* *p*

(sounds fade away...)

"ting" fades in

3' 49"

60

pp *p*

large swell

4' 04"

66

f *mp* *ff*

series of loud sounds

4' 19"

4' 34"

69

♩ = 64

pp *mf*

'whistle'

(fading away...)

two whistling sounds

75

mp *mf*

4' 57" $\text{♩} = 96$

80

mf < *f* *mp* *f*

various undulating sounds

82

dim.

84

p < *mf* *dim.* *pp*

5' 17"

87

mf *f* *mf* *f*

various undulating sounds

89

> < *f* *mp* *f*

6

5' 25"

91

mp *mf* *mf* *f*

5' 40"

93

ppp *p dolce*

$\text{♩} = 64$

(sounds fade away...)

5' 53"

98

p *mp* *p*

'ringing' sound enters

6' 00"

100

mf *p* *mf* *p*

filtered bell

filtered bell

$\text{♩} = 72$

102

f *mp* *mf* *f*

6' 13"

104

ff *mf* *mp* *f*

series of swells