

michael matthews

perishable light

thirteen fragments after poetry by dennis cooley

for

viola / viola d'amore

and

percussion

is that what

dawn comes on rubber tires

better still the earth were swollen

this is just to ask

in the fullness of light

how we forever climb

in time just in time

girls on a ball once

it used to be we

they stroll in liquid

you know if wish

as children when they listen

the world trickles in

commissioned by ben reimer and jennifer thiessen with financial support from the canada council for the arts.

*first performance, october 6, 2019, winnipeg
groundswell new music series
jennifer thiessen, viola and viola d'amore
ben reimer, percussion*

instrumentation

*viola
viola d'amore (7-string, tuning G D A D F A D)*

*marimba (with low C)
asian temple bells (to be shaken)
3 gongs (d3, e3, a3)
5 bell cymbals*

*all texts excerpted from:
perishable light
by dennis cooley
coteau books, regina
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dedicated to jennifer thiesen and ben reimer

perishable light

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is that what

♩ = 64

poco rit. ----- *a tempo*

The score is divided into three systems, each with a Viola (Vla.) and Marimba (Mrb.) part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece begins with a tempo of 64 beats per minute. The first system (measures 1-14) features a Viola part with a *Port.* (portamento) effect and a Marimba part with *soft mallets*. The second system (measures 15-19) includes a trill in the Viola part and various dynamic markings. The third system (measures 20-30) concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) section. Measure numbers 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 are indicated in boxes. Dynamic markings include *pppp*, *pp*, *mf*, *ff*, *p*, *mp*, *f*, and *dim.*. Performance instructions include *poco rit.*, *a tempo*, *Port.*, *tr*, *soft mallets*, and *rit.*

♩ = 172

5

10

15

Va.

Vla. *mf dim.* *mp dim.* *p*

Mrb. *hard mallets* *f dim.* *mf dim.* *mp* *p*

20

25

30

rit. ----- a tempo

Vla. *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *p* *ff* *p* *mp*

Mrb. *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *p* *f* *p*

35

40

45

Vla. *p* *mp* *fpp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *p* *ff*

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

50

55

Vla. *ff* *dim.* *p* *ff*

Mrb. *p* *f* *dim.* *p* *ff*

60

65

70

poco rit. -----

Vla. *pp* *mp* *p* *ff* *mf* *p*

Mrb. *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

better still the earth were swollen

♩ = 60

Vla. *ord.* 5 10

Perc. Gongs

Mrb.

pp *p* *pp* *p* *mf* *f*

pp *p* *pp* *p* *mf*

15 ♩ = 72

Vla. *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *rit.* -----

Perc.

Mrb. *pp* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

♩ = 60

Vla. 20 *pp* *pp* *rit.* ----- *a tempo* 25

Perc. Gongs *pp* *p*

Mrb. *ppp* *p*