

In the Sea that Separates

for B^b clarinet and vibraphone

Stephen F. Lilly

(2023)

Dedicated to Thomas DeLio

Program Notes

As a student and fan of Thomas DeLio and his work, I wanted to honor his influence on my music by somehow translating his unique soundworld, from its radical embrace of silence to the fully integrated way he writes for an ensemble—as if transforming it into a single voice, to my own. Thus, much of *In the Sea that Separates* is derived from Thomas DeLio's *qu'un espace / sépare*: form, pitch content (taken both from the score itself as well as a spectral analysis of the first gong hit), the occasional rhythmic cell, and even the sounds of Stéphane Mallarmé's fragment. By way of homophonic translation, Mallarmé's unfinished elegy for his son becomes a lament for the planet, and somewhat similarly, DeLio's largely non-pitched septet is transformed into a mostly pitched duet.

Pure – dried, sacked, and shipped;
the sea has landed.

Leisure was violence;
the dew brackish.

Pretty,
White,
Dented and rotten,
the kettle isn't any good—

Still,
mottled with deposits,
silver suspended in the ocean,
it howls for anyone;
now, hot enough to steep.

In the Sea that Separates for B^b clarinet and vibraphone

Stephen F. Lilly

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed)

ppp *mf*

vowel:*
u → i

Clarinet in B^b

key-clicks (no breath)
trill with
noisiest keys as if shattered
random and scattering

ppp *mf*

12"

nonvib.
soft yarn mallets

Vibraphone

p

mp

ped. (leave pedal down until instructed to lift)

B^b Cl.

ppp

24"

Vib.

* This refers to the shape of the mouth: "i" is similar to a typical embouchure but more closed (i.e. a smaller mouth cavity), and "u" is more open (i.e. a larger mouth cavity) with a darker sound (if no vowel is indicated, blow through the clarinet with a standard embouchure).

Accidentals only effect attached notes (for clarity, some courtesy naturals have been employed).

In the Sea that Separates

subtones—sound is predominantly key-clicks, pitch secondary

36"

B \flat Cl.

spoken

Pure

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed)

vowel:

i → u
f → *mp*

ppp

spoken

f

Pure

spoken

mf

dried,

sacked,

and shipped.

stick click (with mallets)

>

as fast as possible
play with stick side of mallet

ppp

Vib.

*

B \flat Cl.

spoken*

θ
mp

48"

Vib.

spoken

the sea

mp

B \flat Cl.

pp

mp

pp

1'

Vib.

has landed.

p
Reed.

* The speech symbols refer to the International Phonetic Alphabet (I.P.A.).

In the Sea that Separates

1'12"

B \flat Cl. *mp* *mp* *mp*

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed)

spoken
was violence

Vib. *p*

whispered
(completely unvoiced)
Leisure

1'24"

B \flat Cl. *pp*

Vib. *ppp*

1'36"

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

mp *pp* *mp*

mp *pp*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the 1'36" mark. It features two staves: B \flat Clarinet (B \flat Cl.) and Vibraphone (Vib.). The B \flat Cl. staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic of *mp*, which tapers to *pp* before a rest. After the rest, there is a sharp sign and a note with a downward bow or breath mark above it, with a dynamic of *mp*. Below the staff, there are several vertical symbols: a teardrop, a series of dots, and a series of vertical lines. The Vib. staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic of *mp*, which tapers to *pp* before a rest. After the rest, there are several notes, including a half note with a flat and a sharp sign above it, and a dynamic of *mf*. A dashed line connects the start of the Vib. staff to the end of the B \flat Cl. staff.

1'48"

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed)

mf

spoken
dew
mf

mf

Detailed description: This musical score is for the 1'48" mark. It features two staves: B \flat Clarinet (B \flat Cl.) and Vibraphone (Vib.). The B \flat Cl. staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It begins with a rest, followed by a note with a dynamic of *mf*. The Vib. staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic of *mf*, followed by a note with a flat and a sharp sign above it, and a dynamic of *mf*. A dashed line connects the start of the Vib. staff to the end of the B \flat Cl. staff. To the right of the staves, there is text: "breath through clarinet (no pitch from reed)" with a note below it, and "spoken dew" with a dynamic of *mf* below it.

In the Sea that Separates

B \flat Cl. *p* *pp*

Vib. *mp* *p* *pp*
brackish(j) **leg.*

B \flat Cl. fluttertongue timbre trill

Vib. stick click (with mallets) *f* medium cord mallets *mf*

xxxxx

B \flat Cl. *ff* *mp* *mp* *mf*

Vib. *mp* *mf*

spoken
Pretty, White, Dented and rotten, with

whispered
(completely unvoiced)
Pretty, White, Dented mot-tled

stick click (with mallets)

2'36"

B \flat Cl.

deposits

ppp *f*

Vib.

(s)

hard cord mallets

p *f*

2'48"

B \flat Cl.

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed) with
random chromatic movement on keys

ppp

mf

Vib.

p

p *ppp* *mf*

3'

B \flat Cl.

pp

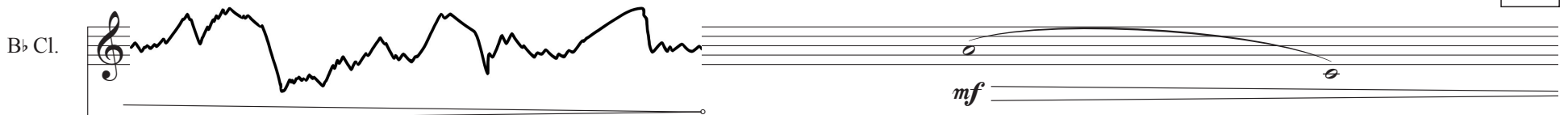
f

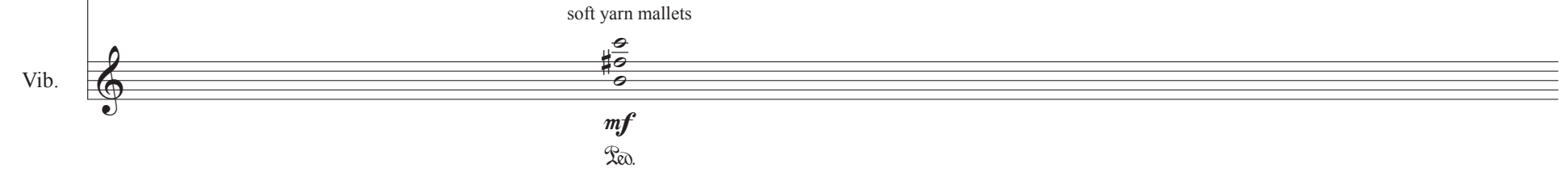
Vib.

pp *f*

In the Sea that Separates

3'12"

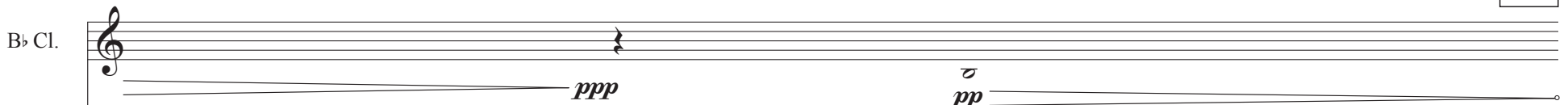
B♭ Cl. 

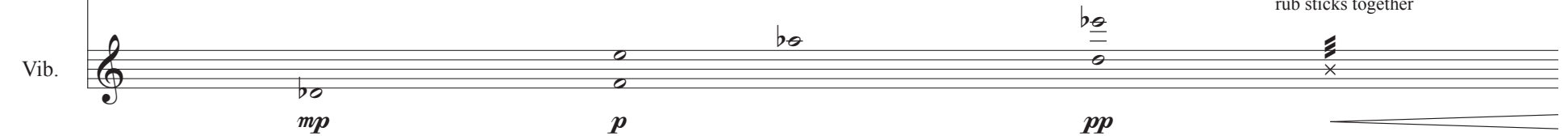
Vib. 

soft yarn mallets

mf
Leo.

3'24"

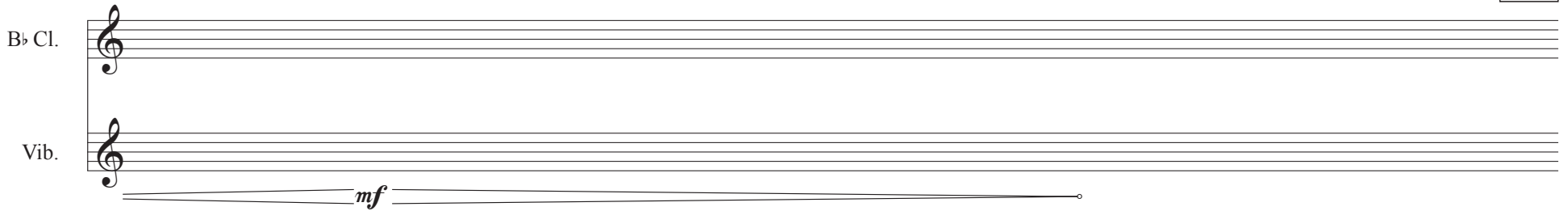
B♭ Cl. 

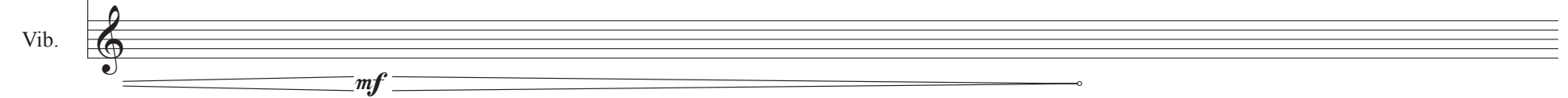
Vib. 

mp *p* *p* *pp*

rub sticks together

3'36"

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

mf

3'48"

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

4'

B \flat Cl.

vib. (medium speed)

Vib.

4'12"

B \flat Cl.

Vowel:
u ————— i ————— u
pp <— *f* >— *pp*

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed)

Vib.

* Reo.

In the Sea that Separates

play as fast as possible with
some rubato fluctuations

4'24"

B \flat Cl. *p**

Vib. vib. (fast speed) *p*

4'36"

B \flat Cl. *pp*

Vib.

4'48"

B \flat Cl. *p*

Vib. vib. off

key-clicks (no breath)
random rhythm and key selection

× ×× × × × ×××

spoken
mp

* *mp*

* Higher notes need only be as soft as possible.

In the Sea that Separates

5'

whispered
(completely unvoiced)

p

the sea has landed.

the dew

brackish.

B \flat Cl.

A series of 'x' marks on a staff, representing a percussive or unvoiced sound. The marks are distributed across the staff, with some appearing in pairs or small groups.

Vib.

dried, sacked, and shipped;

Leisure was violence;

as fast as possible
play with stick side of mallet

A melodic line on a treble clef staff, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are mostly eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets. A dynamic marking **p** is placed below the staff.

5'12"

breath through clarinet
(no pitch from reed)

o

A long horizontal line on a staff, representing a sustained sound. A dynamic marking **mp** is placed below the line.

B \flat Cl.

A series of 'x' marks on a staff, representing a percussive or unvoiced sound. The marks are distributed across the staff, with some appearing in pairs or small groups.

Vib.

A melodic line on a treble clef staff, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are mostly eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets. A dynamic marking **mp** is placed below the staff.

spoken

Pretty,

White,

mp

ped.

In the Sea that Separates

5'24"

whispered
(completely unvoiced)
mottled with deposits,

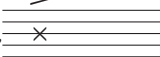
p

silver suspended in the ocean,

B \flat Cl. 

Vib. *Dented and rotten,*

the kettle isn't any good—

stick click (with mallets)
 \gt
 Still, 
f

spoken

it howls for anyone;

mp

5'36"

B \flat Cl. *now, hot enough to steep.*

Vib.