

# THIS UNBEARABLE STILLNESS: SONGS FROM THE BALCONY

Commission by Myrna Seiken Root for the  
College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University  
with additional support from the Syracuse Symposium and Pulse and  
Premiered October 13, 2008 by the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra,  
Eileen Stremmel, soprano and Daniel Hege, conductor.

Orchestra bells  
2 Suspended cymbals with bows  
Snare drum, wire brushes  
Tambourine

## I. THE RAIN

DIMA HILAL

"A Different Morning Altogether"

LIBBY LARSEN

2003

2008, Orchestration

♩ = 54, freely

Soprano

Percussion 1  
Orchestra bells  
*pp* *mf*

Percussion 2  
Sus. cym. medium, bow  
*pp*

Percussion 3  
Sus. cym. medium, bow  
*pp*

Celeste  
*f*

♩ = 54, freely

Violin 1  
*pp* *dolce* *f* *fpp* *p* *gl.*

Violin 2  
*pp* *dolce* *f* *fpp* *p* *gl.*

Viola  
*f > pp* *tr.* *sul pont.* *sul pont. buzz nasal* *f*

Violoncello  
*ffp* *sul pont. non vib.*

Violoncello  
*ffp* *tr.*

Contrabass  
*f* *pizz.* *mf* *f* *gliss. bend pitch*

A

(as if in pain)

*mf*

6

The rain thun-ders on the roof The rain thun-ders on the bal-co-ny rail and um-

orch. bells *mf* *p*

sus. cym. Snare drum, wire brushes *p*

sus. cym.

Cel. *p*

A

6

1 *f* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

2 *f* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vla. *ord. tr.* *ffpp* *tr.* *ffp*

Vnc. *ord.* *jeté gliss.* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

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

Vnc.

Cb. *pp* *p* *arco ord.* *p*

B

11

brel-las of kids in un-i-form head-ing to school. The rain slams to the earth flat-tens the field,

orch. bells *p*

snare drum *mp* Sus. cym., bowed *pp*

Sus. cym., bow *pp*

Cel. *mf* *mp*

B

11

1 *ord.* *mf* *f* *p* *f* *pp*

2 *ord.* *f* *p* *f* *pp* *at the tip*

Vla. *f* *p* *pp* *at the tip*

Vnc. *arco tr.* *tr.* *tr.* *pp* *sul pont.* *tr.* *ffpp*

*ffpp* *f* *p* *ffpp*

Cb. *pizz.* *mf*

Marimba  
4 Suspended cymbals  
Orchestra bells  
Large Tam-tam

Temple blocks  
Watergong  
Slide whistle

## II. TIME SPIRALS

SAKEENA SHABEN  
"Fourteenth Ode"

**E**

(5) Marimba, soft mallets (8) (10) (10)

Perc. 3

Cel.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

*pp*

*f*

*solo, esp.*

*p*

*tutti, con sord. except solo violin*

*solo*

*mf*

*pp*

*mp*

*p*

*tutti*

*f*

*solo, esp.*

*p*

*tutti, con sord. except solo violin*

*solo*

*mf*

*pp*

*mp*

*p*

*tutti*

*esp. solo*

*mf*

*tutti, con sord.*

*sub. p*

*solo, esp.*

*sul A*

*mf*

*solo*

*mf*

*pizz.*

**F**

(4) 5

*mp*

I'm not sure of my age; de - scend - ing pale robes, dis - tant

Perc. 2

4 Sus. cyms. wire brushes

*p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

*senza sord.*

*still*

*p < p < p < p <*

*mf*

*pp*

*p*

*ppp*

*senza sord.*

*still*

*p < p < p < p <*

*mf*

*pp*

*p*

*ppp*

*senza sord.*

*still*

*p < p < p < p <*

*mf*

*pp*

*p*

*ppp*

*tutti*

*dolce, cantabile*

*sul C*

*p < p < p < p <*

*mf*

*pp*

*p*

*ppp*

*arco dolce, cantabile*

*mf*

*pp*

12 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

flut-ter-ing. All that is cer-tain is time spi - rals — So e-lu-sive it winds me down stairs

Perc. 1 *Orch. bells* *pp*

Perc. 3 *marimba* *p*

Cel. *mf* *pp*

1 *warmly* *mf* *rit.* *a tempo* *move to* *non vib.* *jeté* *rit.* *pp* *niente*

2 *warmly* *mf* *tr* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Vla. *warmly* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Vnc. *warmly* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Cb. *seagull effect*

**G** *poco meno mosso*

18 *mf*

The si-rens heat my cen-ter, wash my swol-len need for com-fort. Love here is o-cas-sion-al

Perc. 2 *large sus. cym., wire brush* *f*

Perc. 3 *Large tam-tam* *pp* *Marimba, soft mallets* *p*

Cel.

**G** *poco meno mosso*

18 *sub.p* *mf*

1 *as an air raid siren* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *warmly*

2 *sub.p* *mf*

Vla. *as an air raid siren* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* *warmly* *mf*

Vnc. *sub.p* *mf*

Cb. *pizz. gently* *p* *mf*

**J** a tempo slowly

46 (6) (8) *mp*

gar - bage trucks roll out - side my o - pen win - dow

Orch. bells

Perc. 1 *p*

1 *div.* *p* slowly *unis.* *p*

2 *p*

Vla. *mp* *mp* *p* *p*

Vnc. *mf* *esp.* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

**K** a tempo slowly

50 *mp*

It must be four a. m.

Perc. 1 Water gong 1/2 submerge *p* full submerge

Perc. 2 Slide whistle *p* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.*

Perc. 3 large tam-tam *pp*

Cel. *pp*

**K** a tempo slowly

50 *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* niente

1 *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* niente

2 *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* niente

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* niente

Vnc. *arco* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* niente

Cb. *arco* *p*

Temple blocks      Sandblocks  
 Snare drum        Orchestra bells  
 Marimba            Medium woodblock  
 Triangle, small, med.    Medium Suspended cymbal  
 Low tom-tom

### III. THE RUSH OF RAIN

DIMA HILAL

"A Different Morning Altogether"

**L** ♩ = 68

The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The second system includes staves for Percussion 1, 2, and 3, and staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass.

**Violin 1:** *quasi pont.* *p*

**Violin 2:** *quasi pont.* *p* *sfz*

**Viola:** *quasi pont.* *p* *sfz*

**Violoncello:** *quasi pont.* *p*

**Contrabass:** *quasi pont.* *p*

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**Perc. 1:** Temple blocks *mp* *mf* *mf* Small triangle

**Perc. 2:** Snare drum, snares on *mp* *mf*

**Perc. 3:** Marimba, medium mallets *tr* *fp (non cresc.)* *fp (non cresc.)*

**Violin 1:** *sub.f* *p*

**Violin 2:** *f*

**Viola:** *f* *p*

**Violoncello:** *tr* *fp* *f* *fp*

**Contrabass:** *fp* *fp*

24

Perc. 1 *orch. bells*

Perc. 2 *tom-tom*

Perc. 3 *marimba* *pp*

Vln. 1 *ord.* *pp*

Vln. 2 *tutti, sul pont.* *pp* *ord.*

Vla. *tutti, sul pont.* *pp* *ord.*

Vnc. *fpp* *tr.* *arco* *(b+)*

Cb. *f*

27

freely

I lean ——— a-against the bal - con - y rail - ing.

Perc. 1 *orch. bells* *p* *poco*

Perc. 2 *tom-tom*

Perc. 3 *take soft mallets* *p*

27

freely

Vln. 1 *fpp*

Vln. 2 *fpp*

Vla. *fpp*

Vnc. *fpp* *tr.* *(b+)* *fpp* *fpp* *fpp*

Cb. *fpp* *arco*

**P** a tempo

32

Time moves slow - er here. Time moves

Perc. 1 Medium woodblock, stick *p*

Perc. 2 low tom-tom *mf* *p*

Perc. 3 Sus. cym., tenor drum mallet *p*

**P** a tempo

32

Vln. 1 *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *f* *p*

Vla. non vib. *f* *p*

Vnc. pizz. arco non vib. *f* *p* pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

Cb. col legno *f* *p* ord. *p*

36

slow - er here I watch men in shorts sit be-neath an awn-ing I watch

Perc. 3 sus. cym. *p*

Vln. 1 *pp* *sub.mp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *sub.mp*

Vla. *pp* *mp* *mf*

Vnc. pizz. arco *pp* *mp*

Cb. *pp*



Suspended cymbal Hanging brass bell chimes  
Bee bee shaker Watergong  
Orchestra bells

# IV. THIS UNBEARABLE STILLNESS

SAKEENA SHABEN  
"Tempest"

**S** ♩ = 44, very freely

rall. a tempo

(vacantly)

There is lit-tle in-spir - a-tion to-night air cool and wet my heart a lit-tle dry my heart a lit-tle dry and flat

Perc. 2 Sus. cym. *p*

Perc. 3 Bee-bee shaker lazy *mf*

Cel. *pp*

**S** ♩ = 44, very freely

rall. a tempo

1 *p* sul tasto molto legato *pp* ord. non vib. *sub. pp* poco

2 *p* sul tasto molto legato *pp* ord. non vib. *sub. pp* poco

Vla. *p* sul tasto molto legato *pp* ord. non vib. *sub. pp* poco

Vnc. *p* sul tasto molto legato *pp* ord. non vib. *sub. pp* poco

Cb. *pizz., gentle* *p* *pp* *p*

6 push ahead

pull back

**T** poco animato

(with quiet aching) *mf*

white fab-ric pins o - pen my mid - night win-dow a slice of light moon driv-en I hope

Perc. 1 Orchestra bells gently *mf*

Perc. 2 Tenor drum, mallets *pp*

Perc. 3 Hanging brass bell chimes gently *pp*

Cel. *mf* gentle, glint

6 push ahead

pull back

**T** poco animato

div. unis.

1 *ord.* *poco* *mp* *sub. mf* *sub. mf* *div.* *unis.*

2 *ord.* *poco* *mp* *mf* *p* *gossimer* *pp*

Vla. *ord.* *poco* *mp* *mf* *p* *gossimer* *pp*

Vnc. *ord.* *poco* *mp* *mf* *p* *gossimer* *pp*

Cb. *pp* arco

15

rush-es through the trees while the as-phalt dark-ens on a two lane by-way In bed I lis-ten to the

Perc. 1 *Tambourine thumb roll*  
*sus. cym.*  
*p*

Perc. 2 *sus. cym.*

Perc. 3

Cel. *f*

Vln. 1 *sul tasto*  
*pp* *mf* *sub.ppp* *non cresc.* *1/2 stand* *ord.* *tutti* *p < f* *p < f* *sul tasto* *pp*

Vln. 2 *sul pont.*  
*p* *tr.* *p* *tr.* *p*

Vla. *mf > pp* *non cresc.* *p < f* *p < f* *sul tasto* *pp*

Vnc. *sul pont.*  
*ffp* *unis. ord.* *tr.* *tr.* *pp*

Vnc. *sul pont.*  
*ffp*

Cb. *arco*  
*p*

19

wa-ter I lis-ten to the wa-ter, sheets crum-pled at my feet. I lis-ten, I lis-ten,

Perc. 1 *Orchestra bells*  
*gliss.*  
*ppp*

Vln. 1 *ord.* *mf* *gl.* *sub.ppp* *p* *sul pont.* *mf* *sub.ppp*

Vln. 2 *ord.* *mf* *gl.* *pp* *p* *sub.ppp* *non cresc.* *ord.*

Vla. *ord.* *mf* *3* *pp* *sub.mp* *mp* *sub.ppp*

Vnc. *sul pont.* *tr.* *molto legato div.* *sub.mp* *unis.* *sub.ppp* *sul pont.* *tr.* *ffpp*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

23

I lis - ten — and be - lieve the sky wish - es to — pound the curves of Cos - ta Ri - ca flat.

Cel.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

pp

mp

f

pp (non cresc.)

mp

pp (non cresc.)

p

non vib.

ord.

tr.

esp.

non vib.

ord.

sul pont.

tr.

tr.

tr.

tr.

ord. darkly

mf

p

p

p

pp

slow gl.

sub. pp

p

arco non. vib.

pp

p

27

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Cel.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Vnc.

Cb.

Tambourine thumb roll

rit.

pp

mp

pp

Sus. cym., bow

pp

f

f

rit.

p

p

mf

p

f

p

ord.

p

p

esp.

f

rall.

3

sul pont.

ffp

sul pont.

tr.

ffp

pizz.

p

attacca

8 M *mf*

I lean a-against the bal-con-y

Perc. 1 *triangle* *f*

Perc. 2 Low tom-tom *mf*

Perc. 3 *marimba tr.* *fp*

Vln. 1 *f* *sub.ppp*

Vln. 2 *f* *sub.ppp*

Vla. *sub.ppp*

Vnc. *f fp* *f fp* *f* *sub.ppp*

Cb. *fp* *f* *pizz.* *ppp*

12

rail-ing stu - dy-ing the view we paid two ex-tra dol-lars to see

Perc. 1 Sandblocks *f*

Perc. 2 Tom-tom, wire brushes *pp*

Perc. 3 *marimba* *mp*

Vln. 1 *mp* *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *mp* *pp* *p*

Vla. *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vnc. *mp* *pp* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Cb. *mp* *pp* *pizz.*

16

My skin un-fa-mil-iar with the weight of the air, my skin will soon for-get

Perc. 1  
Orch. bells  
*pp*

Vln. 1  
*pp* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.*

Vln. 2  
*pp* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.*

Vla.  
*pp* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.*

Vnc.  
*pp* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.*

Cb.  
*pp* *arco* *non vib.* *ord.* *non vib.* *ord.*

20

be-ing with-out its con-stant touch hea-vy and hu-mid.

Perc. 2  
Low tom-tom, con sord.  
*pp*

Vln. 1  
N freely a tempo  
*f* *sub.ppp* *1/2 stand non vib.* *tutti, sul pont.* *pp*

Vln. 2  
*f* *sub.ppp* *1/2 stand non vib.*

Vla.  
*f* *sub.ppp* *1/2 stand non vib.*

Vnc.  
*f* *sub.ppp* *1/2 stand non vib.* *tutti pizz.* *pp*

Cb.  
*ppp* *pizz.* *pp*

11

slides in-to my room. moon driv - en light

orch. bells gently  
p pp

Watergong lower steadily  
p

chimes  
p

Cel.

11  
div. at the tip ppp dolce

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc. solo

Vnc. div.

Cb. p

20 *freely* *rall.*

slow — hum — of the fan the winds now passed like good-bye kiss-es straight — down from the sky

+ Perc. 1 + Cb.

Perc. 1 Small triangle *pp* *poco* *poco*

Perc. 2 *sus. cym.* *poco* *poco*

Perc. 3 *bee bee shaker* *poco* *poco*

Cel. *poco* *poco*

20 *freely* *rall.*

Vln. 1 *(ppp)* *poco* *sub. p* *poco* *molto legato* *mf*

Vln. 2 *(ppp)* *poco* *sub. p* *poco* *molto legato* *mf*

Vla. *(ppp)* *poco* *sub. p* *poco* *molto legato* *mf*

Vnc. *(ppp)* *poco* *sub. p* *poco* *molto legato* *mf*

Cb. *mf* *poco* *pp*

25 **V** *a tempo rall.* *straight tempo*

moon — light —

Perc. 1 Orchestra bells

Perc. 3 Marimba, bowed

Cel. *gently, gossimer*

25 **V** *a tempo rall.* *straight tempo*

*solo dolce, cantabile* *tutti* *sim.*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vnc. *div.*

Cb. *pp non vib.* *pp*

30 W freely, flexibly

slides— in - to my room all night the creak-ing of a loose win-dow-pane and now

Perc. 1 *orch. bells gently* *pp* Sandblocks *mf*

Perc. 2 Sus. cym., large *pp*

Perc. 3 *marimba*

30 W freely, flexibly warmly

1 *tr.* *cantabile* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 2 warmly *mp* *pp*

Vla. warmly *mp* *pp*

Vnc. warmly *mp* *pp*

Cb. warmly *mp* *pp*

35 freely, recitative a tempo

this un-bear-ab - le still - ness still - ness. still - ness.

Perc. 3 *poco* *marimba* *p diminuendo*

Cel. *p* *poco*

35 freely, recitative a tempo cantabile

1 *p* *poco* *diminuendo* *ppp*

Vln. 2 *p* *poco* *diminuendo* *ppp*

Vla. *p* *poco* *diminuendo* *ppp*

Vnc. *p* *poco* *diminuendo* *ppp*

Cb. *poco* *ppp*