

Ellen Ruth Harrison

FOSSILS

Fossils

commissioned by concert:nova for its *Carnival of the Animals* music and dance project

for Bb clarinet, piano, two violins, viola, and cello

Ellen Ruth Harrison

2010

The idea for *Fossils* comes from Saint-Saëns' *Fossiles* in the *Carnival of the Animals*. Both works incorporate material from earlier pieces – as traces or fossils - that is reinterpreted in a different setting. The similarity ends here, however, because the characters and sound worlds differ immensely. I have taken two three-note melodic fragments from an earlier piece for solo clarinet and spun them into long lines. These appear and disappear amidst the intricate piano and string textures that form the underlying strata, or sonic landscapes. The surface textures are often busy, but the overall tempo is slow as the landscapes shift, at times unveiling fossils, at times obscuring them with layers of sound and streaks of color.

Duration: circa 4 minutes

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Fossils

for concert:nova

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Animato

Score in C

♩ = 63

Clarinet in B \flat

Piano

mp
sf

Animato

♩ = 63

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

pp legato
pp legato
pp legato
mp legato



Cl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p
p
p
p

2

4

Cl. *mp* *sf* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Vc. *mp*

6

Cl. *p* *poco f*

Vln. I *p* *mp*

Vln. II *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p*

7

Cl. *sf* *mp* *pp*

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *mp*

10

Vln. I *p* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p* *mp* *p*

Vc. *p*



11 *accel.*

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

A

12 ♩ = 72

Cl.

Pno.

Ped. _____

A

♩ = 72

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

14

Cl. *mp* 3

Pno.

Vln. I (s.p.) -----> ord. *p* tr

Vln. II (s.p.) tr (s.p.) -----> ord. *p* tr

Vla. (s.p.) -----> ord. (tr) *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 14, features six staves. The Clarinet (Cl.) staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a long note with a slur and a dynamic marking of *mp*. A triplet of notes appears later in the staff. The Piano (Pno.) staff consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a long note and a slur. The Violin I (Vln. I) staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It includes a dynamic marking of *p* and a trill. Above the staff, a dashed line with the text "(s.p.)" and an arrow pointing to "ord." indicates a performance instruction. The Violin II (Vln. II) staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, featuring a dynamic marking of *p* and a trill. Similar to Vln. I, it has a "(s.p.)" instruction above. The Viola (Vla.) staff uses an alto clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a dynamic marking of *mp* and a trill. Above it, a "(s.p.)" instruction points to "ord.". The Violoncello (Vc.) staff is in the bass clef with a key signature of one sharp, marked with *mp*. The score is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line.

Pochissimo meno mosso

♩ = 69

Musical score for measures 16-18. The score includes parts for Clarinet (Cl.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 16 starts with a *p* dynamic. Measure 17 features a *mf* dynamic with triplet markings. Measure 18 continues with *mf* dynamics. The Vc. part in measure 16 is marked *f*. The tempo is *Pochissimo meno mosso* at 69 beats per minute.



Musical score for measures 19-21. The score includes parts for Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), and Viola (Vla.). Measure 19 starts with a *p legato* dynamic. Measure 20 features a *mf* dynamic with triplet markings. Measure 21 continues with *mf* dynamics. The tempo is *Pochissimo meno mosso* at 69 beats per minute.

21

Cl. *poco f*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

3 3 3 3 3

tr



23

Cl. *mp* *mf* *poco f* *7*

Pno. *mp*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

(tr)

tr

tr

tr

Pochissimo più mosso

♩ = 72 playful, free

25

Cl. *f* 6 6 6 6

Pno. *f*

Vln. I *poco f*

Vln. II *poco f*

Vla. *poco f*

27

A tempo ♩ = 63

Cl. 6 3 *p*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mf* 3 *p*

30

B

Vln. I *p* *espressivo* *mp* *p* 3

Vln. II *p* *espressivo* *mp* 3

Vla. *espressivo* *mp* *p* 3 *mf*

34

Vln. I: *mf*, *p*, *mp*

Vln. II: *p*, *mp*

Vla.: *p*

Vc.: *mp* *espressivo*, *p*

Measures 34-37. Vln. I starts with a sixteenth-note figure (*mf*), then a half note (*p*), and a half note with a fermata (*mp*). Vln. II has a half note (*p*) and a half note with a fermata (*mp*). Vla. has a half note (*p*) and a half note with a fermata. Vc. has a half note with a fermata (*mp* *espressivo*) and a half note (*p*). Time signatures change from 3/4 to 4/4.



C

38 *accel.*

Pno.: *mp*, *mf*

Vln. I: *mf*, *mf*

Vln. II: *mf*, *mp*

Vla.: *mf*, *mp*

Vc.: *mp*, *mf*, *mf*

Measures 38-41. Pno. has a sixteenth-note figure (*mp*) and a sixteenth-note figure (*mf*). Vln. I has a half note (*mf*) and a half note with a fermata (*mf*). Vln. II has a half note with a triplet (*mf*) and a half note (*mp*). Vla. has a half note with a triplet (*mf*) and a half note (*mp*). Vc. has a sixteenth-note figure (*mp*), a sixteenth-note figure (*mf*), and a sixteenth-note figure (*mf*). Time signatures change from 3/4 to 4/4. *accel.* is indicated above the Vln. I staff.

41

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

poco f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 and 42. The piano part features a complex texture with multiple voices, starting at *mf* and reaching *f* by measure 42. The strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) provide a harmonic and melodic backdrop. Vln. I and Vla. are marked *mf*, while Vln. II and Vc. are marked *f*. A *poco f* marking appears in the Viola part in measure 42. The music is characterized by long, sweeping melodic lines and dense harmonic textures.

43

Cl.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

mp

f

poco f

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43 and 44. The Clarinet (Cl.) enters in measure 43 with a *pp* dynamic. The piano part continues with a *mp* dynamic, building to *f* in measure 44. The strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) are marked *poco f* or *f*. The music features a change in time signature from 3/4 to 4/4 between measures 43 and 44. The texture remains dense with overlapping melodic and harmonic lines.

♩ = 80

45

Cl.

f

3

3

3

3

3

Pno.

6

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

f

sul pont.

ord.

f

Vc.

3

3

sul A

47

Cl.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D

D

ff

p

Red. *simile*

sul pont.

ord.

sf

ff

ff

ff

p

p

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 47, 48, and 49. The instruments are Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 47 features a triplet in the Clarinet and a long note in the Piano. Measure 48 is marked with a box 'D' and includes dynamics *ff* for the Clarinet and *p* for the Piano. Measure 49 includes performance instructions like *sul pont.* and *ord.* for the strings, and dynamics *ff* and *p* for the strings and Cello. A *Red.* (ritardando) and *simile* instruction are also present.

50

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ord.

p

3

3

ord. brushed

p



52

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vc.

rit. ♩ = 63

5/4

4/4

5/4

4/4

5/4

4/4

14

55 **E**

Cl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp
espressivo

p

mp

mp
espressivo

ord.

mp
espressivo



59

Cl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

pp

brushed

p

sul pont.

pp

pp

63

Cl.

6

3

leggiere

Vln. I

sul A

Vln. II



65

Cl.

tr

3

pp

Vln. I

pp

Vc.

sul D

p

pp