

Dark Matter - Late Light

For String Quartet

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2011

Dark Matter - Late Light for String Quartet (String Quartet no. 6) was composed in 2011. The first half of the title refers to the mysterious substance now known to compose most of the universe; the matter is "dark" not only because it does not appear in the visible spectrum but because we know next to nothing about it. This sense of an enigma at the bottom of things also gives a second sense to the half-title; in an older English usage, "dark matter" would refer to an enigmatic discourse, most often an allegory. Both senses apply to the vigorous but troubled first movement, which inhabits the sphere of enigma without trying to solve its riddles (at least not all of them). The second movement initially may seem the exact opposite of the first. Its figurative light, in the form of a transparent and melodious texture, is perfectly clear, however belated. But the impression proves to be not--not quite--true (though, enigmatically enough I suppose, not quite false either).

Duration: about fifteen minutes.

Dark Matter

♩ = 76

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

c.l. batt.

fp

pp

p

c.l. tratt.
(hair + bow)

fp

fp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

fp

pp

fp

fp

3

8

8

5 8

Vln. 1 *mf* *p* *f* *3* *possibile*

Vln. 2 *f* *3* *ordin.*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *ff* *ordin.*

Vlc. *ff*

8

Vln. 1 *fp* *sfz* *fp* *sfz*

Vln. 2 *fp* *sfz* *fp* *sfz*

Vla. *fp* *pp* *fp* *fp*

Vlc. *fp* *pp* *p*

sul pont.

10 8

Vln. 1 *fp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *fp* *piu sul pont.* *c.l. batt.*

Vlc. *fp*

12 8

Vln. 1 *mf* *p* *ff*

Vln. 2 *ordin.* *ff*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *ff*

Vlc. *ff*

15 8

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *slap strings*

Vlc. *slap strings*

17 8

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *sul pont.* *fp*

Vlc. *sul pont.*

Dark Matter

6

19 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3

piu sul pont

fp

ordin.

p

ff

sffz *sffz*

sffz *sffz*

23 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f

p

p

sul tasto

pp

spicc.

mp

25 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

cresc.

cresc.

ordin.

cresc.

pizz.

cresc.

27 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

29 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

31 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

ff

slide bow

slide bow

pp

pp

pp

pp

rit.
sul tasto

sul tasto

sul tasto

41 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

spicc.

simile

rit.

f

c.l. batt.

a tempo

44 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *sul pont.* *f* *ordin.* *f* *pizz.* *ff*

Vlc. *ordin.* *f*

46 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *f* *ordin.* *ff*

Vlc. *arco* *f*

rit. *a tempo*

48 8

Vln. 1 *fff* *fp* *p*

Vln. 2 *fff* *fp* *p*

Vla. *fp* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

Vlc. *p* *behind the bridge*

Dark Matter

10

52 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin. pizz.

arco

pizz.

ff

ff

55 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

mf arco

ff

fff

ff

fff

f

f

f

f

rit.

a tempo

59 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

ff

p

ff

mf

pp

ff

p

ff

mp

ff

mf

pp

ff

f

pp

pp

ff slap strings

64 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul tasto

pp

behind the bridge

ordin.

67

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul pont. ordin. sul pont. pizz. arco sul pont. ordin. sul pont. pizz.

69

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

f

f

f

f

71 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

sul pont.

sul pont.

74 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

pp

pp

ordin.

ordin.

$\text{♩} = 63$

78

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

c.l. batt.

sul tasto

c.l. tratt. (hair + bow)

5

6

80 *rit.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

flautando

behind the bridge

♩ = 54

82 *Con sord.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f

f ordin.

f

86 *accel.*

♩ = 76

Senza sord.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

fp fp fp

spicc.

spicc.

Senza sord.

spicc. 3

Dark Matter

14

89 *rit.* *a tempo*
c.l. batt. 3 3 3

Vln. 1 *ff* *pp* spicc. 3 3 3

Vln. 2 *ff* *pp* spicc. 3 3 3

Vla. *ff* *pp* spicc. 3 3 3

Vlc. *ff* *pp* spicc. 3 3 3

91 *ordin. spicc.* *accel.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vln. 1 *cresc.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vln. 2 *cresc.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vla. *cresc.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vlc. *cresc.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

93 $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 63$ *non. vib. to wide vib.* *p* *ff*

Vln. 1 *f* *non. vib. to wide vib.* *p* *ff*

Vln. 2 *f* *non. vib. to wide vib.* *p* *ff*

Vla. *f* *non. vib. to wide vib.* *p* *ff*

Vlc. *f* *non. vib. to wide vib.* *p* *ff* *sul G*

96 $\text{♩} = 54$ simile $\text{♩} = 63$ ordin. $\text{♩} = 76$

Vln. 1 *p* simile *fff* *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* simile *fff* *pp* ordin.

Vla. *p* ordin. *fff* *pp* ordin.

Vlc. *p* ordin. *fff* *pp*

100

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *sul pont.* *piu sul pont*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

104 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 88$

Vln. 1 *p* *mp* ordin. 3

Vln. 2 *mp* ordin. 3

Vla. *arco* *mp*

Vlc.

Dark Matter

16

accel. $\text{♩} = 96$

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vlc. *f* *arco* *f*

accel. $\text{♩} = 76$ *rit.*

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vlc. *ff*

$\text{♩} = 63$ $\text{♩} = 54$ $\text{♩} = 63$

Vln. 1 *ff* *ff* *p*

Vln. 2 *ff* *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *ordin.* *p*

Vlc. *ff* *pizz.* *arco ordin.* *p*

sul pont. *non. vib. to wide vib.* *simile* *pizz.* *pizz.* *pizz.*

on the bridge

118

arco flautando

sul tasto

$\text{♩} = 54$

flautando

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

ppp

arco sul tasto

arco sul tasto

sul pont.

flautando

pp

ppp

123

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

♩ = 63

126

Con sord.

p

Con sord.

p

Con sord.

p

sul D

134

sul D

141

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul pont.

pp

ordin.

sul tasto

144

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

146

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

p

sf

p

Late Light

20

150

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

156

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

164

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

171

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

3

3

175

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

3

3

3

3

179

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

3

3

3

3

Late Light

22

181

Vln. 1

mp

mf

Vln. 2

mf

Vla.

mf

Vlc.

mf

184

Vln. 1

p

Vln. 2

Senza sord.

p

fp

fp

Vla.

pp

p

mp

Vlc.

pp

p

mp

191

Senza sord.

Vln. 1

pp

Vln. 2

pp

Vla.

pp

pizz.

Vlc.

pp

193

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mp

195

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

slide bow

rit. sul tasto

pp

a tempo Con sord.

pizz. trem.

p

p

p

p arco

198

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

24

205

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

pp

8va

212

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

217

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pizz.

arco

222 *allarg.* *a tempo*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla.

Vlc.

228

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

231 *rit.*

Vln. 1 *fp*

Vln. 2 *sul pont.* *ppp*

Vla.

Vlc. *pp*

pp ordin.