

Dark Matter - Late Light

For String Quartet

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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: 15-16 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* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Dark Matter'. It is written for a string ensemble consisting of Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 76. The time signature is 5/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. Violin 1 and Violin 2 have whole rests. Viola has a whole rest. Cello has a complex rhythmic pattern starting with a forte-piano (*fp*) dynamic, followed by a piano-piano (*pp*) section, and then a piano (*p*) section. The second system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Violin 1 and Violin 2 have whole rests. Viola has a half note followed by a whole rest. Violoncello has a complex rhythmic pattern starting with a forte-piano (*fp*) dynamic, followed by a piano-piano (*pp*) section, and then a piano (*p*) section. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (*fp*, *pp*, *p*), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (c.l. batt., c.l. tratt. (hair + bow), cresc.).

Dark Matter

4

5

Vln. 1 *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *f* ³

Vln. 2 *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *f* ³

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

Vlc. *fp* *fp* *ff* ordin.

8

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

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

Vla. *fp* *pp* *fp* *fp* sul pont.

Vlc. *fp* *pp* *p*

10

Vln. 1 *fp* *cresc.*

Vln. 2 *pp* *piu sul pont* *c.l. batt.* *cresc.*

Vla. *fp*

Vlc. *fp*

12

Vln. 1 *mf cresc.* *dim.* *ff* ³

Vln. 2 *mf cresc. ordin.* *dim.* *ff*

Vla. *cresc.* *fp* *cresc.* *fp* *ff*

Vlc. *cresc.* *ff*

15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 ³

Vla. slap strings

Vlc. slap strings

18

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *sul pont.* *fp* *piu sul pont* *fp* *dim.*

Vlc. *sul pont.* *piu sul pont*

Dark Matter

6

21 8

Vln. 1

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

Vln. 2

p cresc. ordin. *ff dim.* *p cresc. dim.*

Vla.

sfz ordin. *pp sul tasto spicc.*

Vlc.

sfz *mp*

24 8

Vln. 1

p cresc.

Vln. 2

fp cresc. *p cresc. ordin.*

Vla.

cresc. pizz.

Vlc.

cresc.

26 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

28 8

Vln. 1 *ff* *dim.*

Vln. 2 *ff* *dim.*

Vla. *ff* *dim.*

Vlc. *ff* *dim.*

30 8

Vln. 1 *mf dim.* *p* *dim.* slide bow

Vln. 2 *mf dim.* *p* *dim.* slide bow

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

Vlc. *mf dim.* *ff* pizz.

32 8

Vln. 1 *pp dim.* *ff* *fff* *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp dim.* *ff* *fff* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *dim.* *pp* *ordin.* *ff* *fff* *pp*

Vlc. *pp* *ff* *ff* *pp*

rit. sul tasto *a tempo*

Dark Matter

8

36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

fff *pp*

fff *pp*

fff *pp*

fff *pp*

sul pont.

ordin.
pizz.
trem.

simile

sul tasto

3

39

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

spicc.

sul tasto

pizz.

arco

3

3

3

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

spicc.

simile

c.l. batt.

rit.

f

f

3

a tempo

44

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

cresc.

f

cresc.

f

cresc.

ordin.

f

ordin.

f

ff

46

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ff cresc.

fff fp

ff cresc.

ordin.

ff cresc.

fp

rit.

a tempo

49

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

pizz.

arco

pizz.

p

Dark Matter

10
52

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

pizz.

cresc.

cresc.

ff

ff

55

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

cresc.

ff

fff

mf

cresc.

arco

mf cresc. arco

f

f

rit.

a tempo

59

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

ff

p

ff

mf

pp

ff

p

ff

mp

ff

mf

pp

ff

f

pp

pp

slap strings

64

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul tasto

pp

sul tasto

sul C

pp

ordin.

67

sul pont.

ordin.

sul pont.

pizz.

arco

sul pont.

ordin.

sul pont.

pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

69

arco

cresc.

f

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

dim.

dim.

6

6

74 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

ordin.

sf

pp

pp

pp

pp

♩ = 63

78

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

c.l. batt.

3

3

3

3

sul tasto

c.l. tratt.
(hair + bow)

5

6

80 *rit.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

flautando

sul C

♩ = 54

82 *Con sord.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

cresc.

f

f

ordin.

f

cresc.

f

♩ = 76

86 *accel.*

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.* 6 6 6 6 *accel.* 3 3 3

Vln. 1 *cresc.* 3 3 3

Vln. 2 *cresc.* 3 3 3

Vla. *cresc.* 3 3 3

Vlc. *cresc.* 3 3 3

93 $\text{♩} = 88$ 6 6 6 6 $\text{♩} = 63$ 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. sul G *p* *ff*

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

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

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

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

Vlc. *p* *fff* *pp*

100

Vln. 1

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

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

104 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 88$

Vln. 1 *p* *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f* *ordin. 3* *mp* *cresc.*

Vla. *p* *arco* *mp* *3*

Vlc. *p*

Dark Matter

16

106 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 96$

Vln. 1 *mf* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.*

Vln. 2 *mf* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.*

Vla. *mf* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.*

Vlc. *mf* *arco* 3 *f* 3 *cresc.*

108 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 76$ *rit.*

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vlc. *ff*

112 $\text{♩} = 63$ $\text{♩} = 54$ $\text{♩} = 63$

Vln. 1 *ff* *sul pont.* *ff* *p* *f* *pizz.*

Vln. 2 *ff* *non. vib. to wide vib.* *simile* *ordin.* *ff* *p* *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *ff* *pizz.* *arco ordin.* *p* *f* *pizz.*

Vlc. *ff* *p* *f*

118

arco flautando

sul tasto

flautando

$\text{♩} = 54$

Vln. 1

pp

Vln. 2

arco sul tasto

ppp

Vla.

arco sul tasto

ppp

Vlc.

arco flautando

pp

sul pont.

pp

flautando

123

rit.

a tempo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

♩ = 63

Con sord.

126

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Con sord.

p

Con sord.

p

Con sord.

p

sul D

p

134

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul D

141

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul pont.

pp 3

sul tasto

144

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

146

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

cresc.

mf

p

cresc.

mf

p

cresc.

sf

p

cresc.

p

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

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

175

rit. *a tempo*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

6

3

178

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

6

Late Light

22

181

Vln. 1

mp

6

6

mf

Vln. 2

mf

Vla.

mf

Vlc.

mf

184

Vln. 1

p

Vln. 2

p

fp

fp

Vla.

pp

p

mp

Vlc.

pp

p

mp

191

Vln. 1

pp

Vln. 2

pp

Vla.

pp

pizz.

pp

193

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mp

195

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

pp

p

p

p

rit. sul tasto

slide bow

slide bow

pizz. trem.

a tempo

arco

198

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

24

205

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

p

p

p

8va

212

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

217

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

pizz.

224 *allarg.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *arco*

230 *a tempo*

Vln. 1 *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *f* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

236 *rit.* *a tempo*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

241

rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

fp

sul pont.

ppp

pp

245 *a tempo* Con sord. *molto rit.*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 Con sord. ordin. *p*

Vla. Con sord. *p*

Vlc. Con sord.

251

a tempo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.