

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: 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 in 5/4 time with a tempo of 76 beats per minute. 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. The Viola has a half note G2. The Cello has a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, starting with a fortissimo (fp) dynamic, followed by a piano (pp) section, and then a mezzo-forte (p) section. The second system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Violin 1 and Violin 2 have whole notes, with Violin 1 marked fortissimo (fp) and Violin 2 marked crescendo (cresc.). The Viola has a half note G2, marked fortissimo (fp). The Violoncello has a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, marked fortissimo (fp). The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, stems, beams, and dynamic markings.

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.

Vcl. *fp* *fp* *ff* ordin.

8

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

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

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

Vcl. *fp* *pp* *p*

10

Vln. 1 *fp* *cresc.*

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

Vla. *fp*

Vcl. *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. *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* *ff* *fff* *pp*

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

rit. sul tasto a tempo

sul tasto ordin. arco

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

8

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

ordin.

sul C

pp

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

cresc.

f

f cresc.

f cresc.

dim.

f cresc.

dim.

71 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f *cresc.* *dim.*

ff

ff

ff

3

sul pont.

sul pont.

74 8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

sf

pp

pp

pp

pp

♩ = 63

80

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

Measures 80-81. Vln. 1 and 2 play triplets. Vla. plays a melodic line with a fermata. Vlc. plays a low, sustained note.

82

rit.

$\text{♩} = 54$

Con sord.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

flautando

sul C

Con sord.

Con sord. ordin.

Con sord. ordin.

cresc.

cresc.

Measures 82-84. Vln. 1 and 2 play triplets. Vla. plays a melodic line with a fermata. Vlc. plays a low, sustained note. Dynamics include 'rit.', 'Con sord.', and 'cresc.'

85

accel.

f

Senza sord.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f

f

f

Measures 85-87. Vln. 1 and 2 play triplets. Vla. plays a melodic line with a fermata. Vlc. plays a low, sustained note. Dynamics include 'f' and 'Senza sord.'

Dark Matter

14

$\text{♩} = 76$
Senza sord.

88

Vln. 1 *fp fp fp* *spicc.* *rit.* *ff*

Vln. 2 *spicc.* *ff*

Vla. *spicc.* *ff*

Vlc. Senza sord. *spicc.* *ff*

91

Vln. 1 *a tempo* *c.l. batt.* *pp* *ordin. spicc.*

Vln. 2 *pp* *spicc.*

Vla. *pp* *spicc.*

Vlc. *pp* *spicc.*

93

Vln. 1 *accel.* *♩ = 88* *f*

Vln. 2 *cresc.* *f*

Vla. *cresc.* *f*

Vlc. *cresc.* *f*

15

100 ♩ = 76

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

sul pont.

piu sul pont

Vla.

pizz.

Vlc.

pizz.

5/4

105 *accel.*
3
p *cresc.*
mf *f*
p
mp *cresc.*
ordin. 3
mp *cresc.*
arco
3
mp

Dark Matter

16

107 *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.*

109 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 76$ *rit.*

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vlc. *ff*

113 $\text{♩} = 63$ $\text{♩} = 54$ $\text{♩} = 63$

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* *pizz.* *arco ordin.* *fff* *p* *f*

119

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

124

rit.

a tempo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

♩ = 63

Con sord.

127

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Con sord.

p

Con sord.

p

Con sord.

p

sul D

135

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul D

142

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sul pont.

pp 3

sul tasto

145

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ordin.

147

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

cresc.

mf

mf

cresc.

cresc.

sf

p

p

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Senza sord.

Late Light

20

151

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

157

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

165

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

172

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

176

rit. *a tempo*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

179

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

22

182

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mp

mf

mf

mf

185

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

fp

fp

pp

p

mp

pp

p

mp

192

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

pp

pizz.

pp

194

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mp

196

slide bow

rit.

sul tasto

a tempo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pizz. trem.

pp

p

p

p

199

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Late Light

24

206

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

p

p

p

8va

213

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

218

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

pizz.

225 *allarg.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *arco*

231 *a tempo*

Vln. 1 *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *f* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

237 *rit.* *a tempo*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

242 rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

fp

sul pont.

ppp

pp

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

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 Con sord. ordin. *p*

Vla. Con sord. *p*

Vlc. Con sord.

252

a tempo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp