

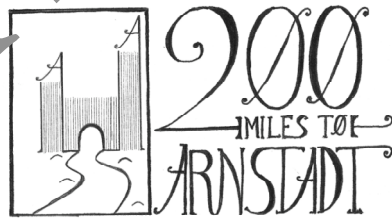
the Idea of a Whale

for Soprano and Piano

PREVIEW

Douglas Buchanan

PREVIEW



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the Idea of a Whale
for Soprano and Piano , c. 7'40" (2008)
Text and Music by Douglas Buchanan

Blue,
it sails through the universe,
Blue
it sails through the darkneses driven by starlight
alone and adrift in the afterglow's twilight
Blue

It sleeps,
flowerlets of stars
trail and dance in its wake,
wisps of old sky
now adrift from their worlds
curl smokily
about its flank;
colors bursting all around the closed eye
running, blurring sea and sky –

Blue.
It slips through the universe, blue,
floating down paths that have long gone untrodden,
so ancient that even the stars have forgotten
wandering, ceaseless, unknowing what ways are chosen
never halting its journey through the frozen
air,
Blue.

It dreams,
deep and untouchable visions,
dreams of the gently lulling waves
rolling over dark figures
gliding through the deep;
the little clicks and calls of mother and child,
their whistles cry out over winds rough and wild,
and
they
Dive

freely, wanton,
playing at shadows, and sunlight and beaches
and all the creatures
of the sea

Slowly
shadows slip under
the water, burrowing deeper,
and leaving wakes hotter; creeping
through sea-bed and crag-topped
mountains, strange other shadows
which wretch acid fountains; cruelly betraying the
safe homeward bowers: acid-etched echoes where once were sea-towers;
wave-choking forms shrouding over the light, cloudily birthing a
bleak starless night, swathing a pall cast
across darkened waters: mothers,
fathers, brothers, daughters,
caught in sickness and
in ruin; trapped
in a home
no longer
their own,
while
ending
tendrils
grasp, wrench,
undo
breath and beauty,
it stirs in its sleep:

and Weeps:

it weeps for its brothers and sisters now under the waves
where iron-wrought chains tore and sundered their graves
and that eternal clamor and grind
silencing songs, and tearing its mind,
it weeps its dreams,
in sleep screams:

Blue,

its tears wash the universe,

Blue,

washing all worlds free of song-ending sadness

(though deep in its heart it may never feel gladness,

lost songs sifting slowly through its ears)

stars wash in tears

shimmer and dance

waves rush away, wind down forgotten roads,

cleansing the mind of the heavens –

Blue,
it
drifts
through
the
un
i
verse,
B
l
u
e:

sleeping and dreaming of ages ago
while it dreams softly its tears gently flow,
remembering family to soon laid low

Blue

floats through the universe

e

u

l

b

Douglas Buchanan
January 30, 2008
Dallas, Baltimore

PREVIEW

the Idea of a Whale

Commissioned by the University of Baltimore

Douglas Buchanan

Adrift (♩ = c. 60) **Slowly, floating** (♩ = c. 72)

Soprano

Piano

8^{va} loco

mp p

Blue, it

7

S

sails through the u-ni-verse, Blue, it sails through the darknesses driven by star-light, a-

Pno.

mp p pp mp

(Seq.)

11

S

lone and a-drift in the aft-er-glow's twi-light, Blue. It sleeps,

Pno.

p mp

(Seq.)

With motion (♩ = c. 50)

mp < mf

6
14 *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

S
flow'r-lets of stars trail and dance in its wake, wisps of old sky, now a-drift from their

Pno.
14 *mf*

(Ped.)

17 *mf* *mp*

S
world curl smok-i - ly a bout its flank; ___ colors burst - ing all a - round the clo-sed eye, ___

Pno.
17 *mf* 8:6 5

(Ped.)

19 *f* *mf*

S
run-ning blur - ring sea and Blue, it slips through the u - ni-verse, blue,

Pno.
19 *f* *mf* 5 11:12 3

(Ped.)

A little faster than tempo I (♩ = c. 44)

22 *mp*

S
floa - ting down paths that have long been un - tod - den, so

Pno.
22

(very quiet indeed)

accel.

mp

f rall.

S

ancient that e-ven the stars have forgotten, wandering, ceaseless, unknow-ing what ways are cho - sen, —

Pno.

(Leo.)

rall.

a tempo *mf*

mp

S

ne - ver hal - ting its jour - ney through the fro - zen air, Blue. —

Pno.

(Leo.)

With a little more movement (♩ = c. 50)

mp < *mf* > *mp*

mp < *mf* > *mp*

mp

S

It dreams, — deep and touch a ble vi - sions, — deams of gen tly lul - ling waves,

Pno.

(Leo.)

mf

mp

S

— rol - ling o - ver dark — fi - gures, gli - ding through the deep; the lit - tle

Pno.

(Leo.)

8
32

S
clicks and calls of mo-ther and child, their whist-les cry out o-ver winds rough and

Pno.

(Rec.)

rall. **Faster, flowing** (♩ = c. 72)

34 *mf* ***f*** rall.

S
wild, and they dive!

Pno.

(Rec.)

Playful, con moto (♩ = c. 46)

37 *mp* *mp*

S
Free-ly, wan-ton, play-ing at sha-dows and sun-light and beach-es,

Pno.

39 rall. *mf* *mf* *mp* **With growing dread** (♩ = c. 52)

S
and all the cre-tures of the sea.

Pno.

(Rec.)

poco a poco accel. e cresc.

S
41
Slow - ly sha-dows slip un - der the wa-ter, bur - row - ing deep - er and leav - ing wakes hot - ter,
poco a poco accel. e cresc.

Pno.
41
(*Rec.*)

S
43
creep ing through sea - bed and crag top - pled moun - tain, strange o - ther sha dows which wretch ac - rid foun tains;

Pno.
43
(*Rec.*)

S
45
cruel - ly be - tray - ing the safe home - land low - ers, a - cid etched ech - oes where once were sea tow - ers,
f

Pno.
45
(*Rec.*)

Tense, agitated ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$)

S
47
p wave cho king forms shrou ding o - ver the light, *mf* clou - di - ly bir - thing a bleak star - less night,
sva-

Pno.
47
f
(*Rec.*)
mf < f *f*

10
49 *mp* *mf* *f marcato*

S
swa - thing a pall cast a - cross dark-ened waters: mothers, fathers, brothers, daughters,

Pno.
f *ff*

(Leo.)

51 *legato* *mf* *molto rall.*

S
caught in sick - ness and in ru - in, trapp-ed in a home long - er their own, while

Pno.
f *molto rall.*

(Leo.)

53 *marcato* *legato* *ff*

S
ending ten - drilsgrasp, wrench, un - do an' with and beau-ty, it stirs in its sleep, and

Pno.
ff

(Leo.)

Mourning (♩ = c. 46) *f* *mp* *mf*

S
Weeps, it Weeps, It weeps for its brothers and sisters now under the waves,

Pno.
ff *mp*

(Leo.)

S *mf* *mf*

where i - ron wrought hands tore and sundered their graves, and that e - ter-nal clank and grind,

Pno.

f *mf*

S (Ped.) *f*

si-len-cing songs, and tea-ring its mind, it weeps it dreams, —

Pno. (Ped.)

S *f* *poco rall.* *Cleanly* (♩ = c. 42) *ff* *f*

in sleep it screams, — Blue, its tears wash the u - ni-verse, Blue, —

Pno. (Ped.) *f*

S *p*

was hing all worlds free of song end-ing sad-ness, (while deep in its heart it may ne-ver feel glad ness,

Pno. (Ped.) *p*

12 *poco rall.* **Shimmering** (♩ = c. 60)

S
 67 *p* 3 3
 lost songs — sift - ing slow - ly through its ears) stars a wash in tears

Pno.
 67 *mp* *mp*
 (X_∞ *sempre a fine*) 5 3

S
 69 *f* 3 *rall.* *mf* *mp*
 shim - mer and dance, waves wash a - way, wind for - got - ten roads,

Pno.
 69 6 5 7 *p* *f* *mp*
 3 *mp*

S
 71 *mp* 3 *Slowly, floating* (♩ = c. 72) *p* 3 3 *mp*
 clean sing the mind of the hea vens, Blue, it drifts through the u - ni verse, Blue:

Pno.
 71 3 5

S
 74 *p* 3 3 3 3 3
 slee - ping and drea - ming of a - ges a - go, while it dreams soft - ly its tears gent - ly

Pno.
 74 3

76 *rall.* *p > pp* *a tempo*

S
flow, re - mem - be - ring fa - mi - ly too soon laid low, Blue,

Pno. *rall.* *a tempo* *loco*

79 *p > pp*

S
it floats through the u - ni - verse, blue. _____

Pno. *ppp*

81 *Adrift* (♩ = c)

S

Pno. *ppp*