

Pillar ◊ Speak ◊ Awake

for soprano, b-flat clarinet, vibraphone, piano, violin and violoncello

Commissioned by and Dedicated to Emily Greenleaf

Tom Baker

Poetry by Eva Counsell

Frog Peak Music (2002)

Performance Notes:

Accidentals apply only to the notes in the same register and last throughout the measure.

All trills are meant to be played with the next highest chromatic pitch, unless otherwise noted.

Pillar

There are ways I could escape.

In raptor dreams
my flesh is torn in scavenging haste
and the shreds of me travel
beak-caught, into the sky blue.

In thoughts
my body disintegrates into its
infinitesimal self,
all skin cells and eyelashes
carried away like windswept seeds.

In sun strokes
I evaporate down to bleached bones,
releasing my liquid self into the passing
clouds
to fall again as rain.

But I cannot move.

I am that Biblical salt,
enflamed crystals of curiosity
trapped in a backwards glance
stillness unforgiven.

Speak

Teach me your tongues.
Drop your words, like diamonds,
around my strangled throat
a gleaming lover's necklace.

Cast your alphabet
into the clamp of my oyster heart
and harvest each iridescent word
from my still, submerged body.

Collect my ashes
and press them into paper
each thin, smoky sheet
another page in a waiting tome.

Transcribe me into a book of hours,
until the days fall away
and the blood-ink dries
in its silent sleeping well.

Then, I will speak through shrouds,
in screams that split stars
until the sky slips down
and catches us, illuminated.

Awake

Night's moons have descended
into the horizon's early blue
withdrawing their milky cloaks
behind the day's first burning.

In the squares of gold morning
curled into the sleeping folds of each
other,
we entwine, unwilling to disentangle
our many-limbed dreams.

Cups of sunlight rest rimful
awaiting our long, yawning throats
now open to the hour breaking,
open to the stretch of day.

Leaving starshine fields,
we lean into the stroke of sun,
rising, lightened at once
by the shapes of our beginning.

I. Pillar

♩ = 72-80

Clarinet in B \flat

Vibraphone
vibrato off

Piano

Soprano

Solo Violin
pizz.
mf 3 5 3 3

Solo Cello
pizz.
mf 5

5

B \flat Cl.

Vib.
hard mallets
mp 3 3 3 3

Pno.

S
mp
There are — There

S.Vln.
3 5

S.Vlc.
5 3

3

9

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

Pno. 

S. 

S.Vln. 

S.Vlc. 

13

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

Pno. 

S. 

S.Vln. 

S.Vlc. 

17

B♭ Cl. *5*

Vib. *3* *3* *3* *3*

Pno.

S. *f* *mp*
could es - cape. In

S.Vln. *5* *3*

S.Vlc. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

20

B♭ Cl. *5*

Vib. *5* *5* *5* *3*

Pno. *mp* *3* *3*

S. *Leg.*
rap - tor dreams my flesh is torn in scav - eng - ing haste and the shreds of me trav - el

S.Vln. *3* *3* *3* *3*

S.Vlc. *3* *3* *3* *5*

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

Pno. 

S 

S.Vln. 

S.Vlc. 

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

Pno. 

S 

S.Vln. 

S.Vlc. 

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

Pno. 

S 

S.Vln. 

S.Vlc. 

B♭ Cl. 

Vib. 

Pno. 

S 

S.Vln. 

S.Vlc. 

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

to fall a - gain as rain.

3 3 5 3

3 3 3 3

8^{vb}

3

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

(ped.)

mp

mf

But I can - - - not

3 5 5 3

3 5 3

Musical score for measures 41-43. The score includes staves for B♭ Cl., Vib., Pno., S., S.Vln., and S.Vlc. The vocal line (S.) has lyrics: "I am that bib - li - cal salt,". Dynamic markings include *mp*, *f*, and *p*. There are trills in the woodwinds and piano parts.

Musical score for measures 44-46. The score includes staves for B♭ Cl., Vib., Pno., S., S.Vln., and S.Vlc. The vocal line (S.) has lyrics: "en - flamed crys - tals of cur - i - o - si - ty". Dynamic markings include *mp*. There are trills in the piano part.

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

trapped in a back - wards glance

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

still - ness un - for - giv - en.

II. Speak

$\downarrow = 72$

Clarinet in B \flat

Vibraphone

Piano

Soprano

Violin

Violoncello

pp

p

mp

p

pp

mp

pp

ppp

p

pp

pizz.

arco sul tasto

pizz.

p

pp

pizz.

p

Teach me your tongues.

pp

p

pp

p

5

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

Vln.

Vlc.

p

p

mp

pp

p

p

mp

pp

p

pp

pp

arco sul pont.

pizz.

arco sul tasto

pizz.

p

pp

mp

mf-p

mp

p

Drop your words, like dia - monds, a - round my stran - gled throat a

9

B \flat Cl. *fp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vib. *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *mp* *p*

S *mf* *p* *mp*
 gleam - ing lov - er's neck - lace. Cast your al - pha - bet in - to the

Vln. *pizz.* *p* *arco sul pont.* *pp* *pizz.* *p* *arco sul pont.* *pp* *pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *arco ord.* *p* *pp* *pizz.* *p*

13

B \flat Cl. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vib. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *mp* *mp*

S *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*
 clamp of my oy - ster heart and har - vest each ir - i - descent word from my

Vln. *arco ord.* *p* *mp* *p* *sul tasto* *p*

Vlc. *arco ord.* *p* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

17

B \flat Cl. *mp*

Vib. *hard sticks*

Pno. *mp*

S *p* still, *pp* sub - merged bod - y.

Vln. *pizz.* *mp*

Vlc. *arco sul tasto* *mp*

21

B \flat Cl. *p*

Vib. *bowed* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *p*

S *p* Col - lect my ash - es and press them in - to pap - er each thin smok - y sheet

Vln. *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco ord.* *p*

25

B♭ Cl. *p* *pp*

Vib. *mp* *mp* *p*

Pno. *mp* *p*

S *p* *mp* *p*
 a - noth - er page — in a wait - ing tome.

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp* *pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *pp* *pp*

29

B♭ Cl. *p* *s*

Vib. bowed *mp*

Pno. *mp*

S *p* *mp* *p*
 Trans - cribe me — in - to a book of hours, un - til the days — fall a - way

Vln. arco sul pont. *pp*

Vlc. sul pont. *pp* *pizz.* *pp* *p*

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

Vln.

Vlc.

p *mf* *ff*

hard sticks

p *mf*

mp *mf* *f* *ff*

and the blood ink dries in its si - lent sleep - ing well. Then,

add mute ord. *pp* *mf* *ff*

mute off

mp *mf* *ff*

mp *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

Vln.

Vlc.

p

ff *f*

I will speak through shrouds, in screams that split stars un - til the sky slips

B♭ Cl. *p* *pp*

Vib. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* bowed

Pno. *mp* *f* *8va*

S *mp* *p* *pp* down and catch - es us il - lu - mi - nat - ed

Vln. *p* add mute *pp*

Vlc. add mute *pp*

B♭ Cl.

Vib. *ppp*

Pno. *f* *8va*

S

Vln. *ppp*

Vlc. *ppp*

III. Awake

♩ = 60

Clarinet in B \flat

Vibraphone

Piano

Soprano

Solo Violin

Solo Cello

mp
And. (for entire movement)

mp
And. (for entire movement)

mp

p
sul tasto

p
sul tasto

Night's moons have des - cen - ded

4

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

in - to the - hor i - zon's ear - ly blue with

7

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S. draw - ing their mil - ky cloaks

S. Vln.

S. Vlc.

10

B \flat Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S. be - hind the days first burn - ing

S. Vln. *ppp* *pp* 5 5 5 5 5

S. Vlc. *ppp* *pp* 5 5 5 5 5

13

B \flat Cl. *pp*

Vib. *p* *mp*

Pno. *p* *mp* *p*

S. *p* *mp* *mp*

S.Vln. *ppp* 5 *pp* *sul tasto* *arco* *sul tasto*

S.Vlc. *ppp* *pp*

In the squares of gold morn - ing curled in-to the sleep-ing folds

16

B \flat Cl.

Vib. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

S. *p* *mp*

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

of each oth - er, we en - twine un - will - ing to dis -

19

B \flat Cl. *ppp*

Vib. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

S. *mf* *mp*
 en - tan - gle our ma - ny limbed dreams.

S. Vln. *ppp*

S. Vlc. *ppp*

22

B \flat Cl. *pp*

Vib.

Pno.

S.

S. Vln. *pp* *pont.* *5*

S. Vlc. *pp* *pizz.* *5*

24

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Vib. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

S. *mp*
 Cups of sun - light rest rim - ful a - wait - ing our long yawn - ing

S. Vln. *ppp* 5

S. Vlc. *ppp*

29

B♭ Cl.

Vib. *p*

Pno. *p*

S. *p*
 throats now op - en to the hour break - ing, o - pen to the stretch of

S. Vln.

S. Vlc.

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S.

S. Vln.

S. Vlc.

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S.

S. Vln.

S. Vlc.

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S.

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

p *mp* *mf* *p*

by the shape of our be - gin - - - ning.

ppp

ppp

B♭ Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

S.

S.Vln.

S.Vlc.

p *pp* *p* *pp*

pont. 5 5

pp pizz.

pp