



Christopher Beardsley

String Quartet No.2
(The Traveller)

CHRISTOPHER BEARDSLEY
STRING QUARTET No. 2
(The Traveller)

String Quartet No.2 (*The Traveller*) was awarded the accolade of Honourable Mention in the *Second Zoltan Kodály International Composers' Competition* in Budapest, December 2002

My Second String Quartet is based on Walter de la Mare's poem *The Traveller*, which depicts a journey through a visionary landscape. The twelve sections of the poem trace the approach of a man towards death and towards the moment when the dreams and fantasies of his lifetime must be abandoned. Although not strictly adhered to in the quartet, the different sections of the poem can be summarised as follows:

1. A horse-borne traveller arrives where he sees a mysterious landscape.
2. A nocturnal descent towards the strangely smooth surface.
3. The approach continues throughout the day with the landscape being seen in more detail.
4. Apprehensively, the traveller arrives at the plain.
5. In a dream the traveller sees himself as 'Earth's Envoy'.
6. An agonised awakening to a hostile environment.
7. A gallop from a nameless horror.
8. An access of peace.
9. A vision of other worn-out travellers.
10. The journey continues with Death near.
11. He prays, and sees an image of himself.
12. Death.

Duration 17 minutes

(*) Note to performers: The last note in the piece should give the impression that another note is to follow. This effect may be achieved by using a down bow on the imaginary (silent) note on the first beat of the next bar.

First performed on July 3rd 2004 by the Alba Quartet in St. Mary's Church, Lothbury as part of the 2004 City of London Festival.

String Quartet No. 2

(The Traveller)

CHRISTOPHER BEARDSLEY

Brightly (♩=c96)

Violin I *pp rocking* *sim.* *p*

Violin II *pp rocking* *sim.* *p*

Viola *pp rocking* *sim.* *p*

Violoncello *mf with bravado*

4

7

mf

10

13

pizz. arco
pizz. arco
gliss.

16

sim.
sim.
sim.
gliss.

19

(← ♩ = ♩ →)
mf light, dancing
pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp
pizz.
f
mp
gliss.

23

pizz.

26

Violin I: *gliss.*

Violin II: *mf*

Viola: *mf*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*

29

Violin I: *f*, *gliss.*, *pizz.*

Violin II: *arco*, *mf*, *sim.*

Viola: *arco*, *mf*, *sim.*

Cello/Double Bass: *arco*, *mf*, *sim.*

32

Violin I: *arco*, *p*

Violin II: *p*

Viola: *p*

Cello/Double Bass: *p*

35

Violin I: *pp*

Violin II: *pp*

Viola: *pp*

Cello/Double Bass: *pp (non dim.)*, *pp*

Desolate, distant (♩=c48)

40

p sempre senza vibrato

p

p

p

p

p

p

46

p

p

p

p

p not hurried

mp

p

molto vib.

molto vib.

molto vib.

Same speed but with a sense of forward movement (♩=c48)

50

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

pizz. (vib.)

pizz. (vib.)

pizz. (vib.)

non vib.

p

84

arco *p mp p mp mp poco*

mp poco marcato e poco cresc. *mp poco marcato e poco cresc.*

88

mp p *pizz. p*

mf marcato *p* *p* *gliss.*

92

arco quasi trem. *sf p sf p sf p*

arco quasi trem. *sf p sf p sf p*

p

94

sf p sf p sf p sf p sf p

sf p sf p sf p

p *p sonorous*

p *p sonorous*

114

117 *f* forceful

120

124 Slower (♩=c60) (pizz.)

128 *a tempo* *mf* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *gliss* *mp* *accel.* *rit.*

132 *a tempo* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mp*

136 *Slow* ($\text{♩} = c60$) *sul pont.* *ppp shadowy, indistinct sul pont.*

142

167

Musical score for measures 167-172. The system consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor). Measure 167 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measures 168-172 feature various dynamics including *f*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *f*. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and slurs. A fermata is present over the final measure of this system.

173

Musical score for measures 173-178. The system consists of four staves. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *f*. The notation includes slurs and accents.

179

Musical score for measures 179-183. The system consists of four staves. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *f*. The notation includes slurs and accents. Measure 183 features a time signature change to 2/4.

184

Musical score for measures 184-188. The system consists of four staves. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and rests. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, and *f*. The notation includes slurs and accents. Measure 188 features a time signature change to 2/4.

189

195

201

207

Wild, frenzied

213

Musical score for measures 213-217. The score is written for four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are dynamic markings such as *v* (accents) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) throughout the passage.

218

Musical score for measures 218-223. The score is written for four staves. Measures 218-222 feature a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. Measure 223 is a whole rest. The score includes dynamic markings such as *v* (accents), *gliss.* (glissando), *pizz.* (pizzicato), and *arco* (arco). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 in measure 223.

224

Musical score for measures 224-228. The score is written for four staves. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are dynamic markings such as *v* (accents) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) throughout the passage.

229

Musical score for measures 229-233. The score is written for four staves. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and slurs. There are dynamic markings such as *v* (accents) and *ff molto marcato* (fortissimo molto marcato) throughout the passage.

237 *f* strident

4/4

243

4/4

247 **Very slow, solemn** ($\text{♩} = c60$)

pp senza espress. sul tasto

2/2

255 *mf* warm

nat. *mf* warm

5/4

281

Musical score for measures 281-286. The score is in 3/4 time. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has an 'arco' marking at the end. The second and third staves have 'p' and 'arco' markings. The fourth staff has 'p' and 'arco' markings.

287

Musical score for measures 287-292. The score is in 3/4 time. It features four staves. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has 'pizz.' and 'p' markings. The second and third staves have 'pizz.' and 'p' markings. The fourth staff has 'pizz.' and 'p' markings. There are also 'arco' markings in the second and third staves.

293

Musical score for measures 293-299. The score is in 2/4 time. It features four staves. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has 'p' markings. The second and third staves have 'p' markings. The fourth staff has 'p' and 'mp' markings. There are also 'pizz.' markings in the second and third staves. A 'p sonorous' marking is present at the bottom.

300

Musical score for measures 300-305. The score is in 4/4 time. It features four staves. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has 'mf' markings. The second and third staves have 'mf' and 'arco' markings. The fourth staff has 'p' and 'pizz.' markings.

306 *rit.*

p plaintively

p plaintively

p plaintively

molto vib.

mf

312 **Desolate, distant** (♩=c52)

p senza vibrato

p

p senza vibrato

p senza vibrato

p senza vibrato arco

p

p senza vibrato

p but slightly prominent

318

vib.

p

vib.

p solemn

p

p solemn vib.

vib.

p solemn

p

p mournfully

323

p

poco

p

mp

poco

p

mp

poco

p

mp

poco

mp

327

mf mp mp

mf mp mp

mf mp mp

mf mp poco marcato mp

331

mf mp mf

mf mp mf

mf mp mf

mf mp mf

334

f

f

f

f

338 Slow (♩=c48)

f ff p

f ff p

f ff p

f ff p

343 Very broad (♩=c48)

Musical score for measures 343-349. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩=c48. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is marked *fff* and *poco a poco dim.*. The notes are widely spaced, reflecting the 'Very broad' tempo. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

350

Musical score for measures 350-354. The score is in 4/4 time. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is marked *pp* in measures 350-353 and *mf not hurried* in measure 354. The notes are widely spaced, reflecting the 'Very broad' tempo. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

354 Fierce, defiant

Musical score for measures 354-359. The score is in 4/4 time. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is marked *mf* in measures 354-356 and *fff* in measures 357-359. The notes are widely spaced, reflecting the 'Very broad' tempo. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). There are asterisks (*) above the notes in measures 357-359.