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The Deepest Hour for String Orchestra

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The Deepest Hour
for String Orchestra

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements for the degree Master of Arts
in Music

by

Kenneth Glendon Brown

2018
ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The Deepest Hour
for String Orchestra

by

Kenneth Glendon Brown

Master of Arts in Music
University of California, Los Angeles, 2018
Professor David Samuel Lefkowitz, Chair

_The Deepest Hour_ is an 8-minute composition for string orchestra, composed for the Russian String Orchestra conducted by Misha Rachlevsky. The orchestration of _The Deepest Hour_ was tailored to the specific proportions of the RSO in their traveling configuration. The piece is a single continuous movement, its musical style characterized by lyrical melody, tonal harmonic underpinnings, and linear polyphonic texture. All these are in service of a narrative whose starting point is the famous entreaty posed by Rainer Maria Rilke in the first of the Letters to a Young Poet, that one ask “in the most silent hour of your night: _must_ I write? Dig into yourself for a deep answer.” _The Deepest Hour_ poses this question and finds the answer; it expresses an emotional journey through doubt and fear which finally culminates in transcendent affirmation of purpose and serenity.
Kenneth Glendon

THE DEEPEST HOUR

for String Orchestra

Three Owl House
Kenneth Glendon (b. 1992)

THE DEEPEST HOUR

for String Orchestra

Composed January-June 2018

for the UCLA residency of Misha Racklevsky and the Russian String Orchestra

Duration 7’45”

The title of this piece refers to the first of Rainer Maria Rilke’s *Letters to a Young Poet*, in which Rilke exhorts the reader:

No one can advise or help you—no one. There is only one thing you should do. Go into yourself. Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depths of your heart; confess to yourself whether you would have to die if you were forbidden to write. This most of all: ask yourself in the most silent hour of your night: *must* I write? Dig into yourself for a deep answer.

_The Deepest Hour_ depicts my journey through this question and others posed in deep, silent hours.
for Misha Rachlevsky and the Russian String Orchestra

THE DEEPEST HOUR

Kenneth Glendon

Slowly and mysteriously \( \frac{\dot{b}}{\dot{q}} = 60 \)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

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Più mosso e molto agitato $\mathbb{D} = 69$

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

2 solo players div.

p on the string

pizz.

$tutti$

$\mathbb{D} = 69$

$\mathbb{D} = 69$

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$\mathbb{D} = 69$
1 solo player
A piacere
poco a poco rit.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

Tempo I, peacefully
q \( \approx 60 \)

F

Tempo I, peacefully \( j \approx 60 \)
poco a poco rit. al fine

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

114

119

div. a 3

January-June 2018
Los Angeles