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Voyage of the Soul

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Voyage of the Soul

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

by

Zachery Daniel Neufeld

2013
ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Voyage of the Soul

by

Zachery Daniel Neufeld

Master of Arts in Music
University of California, Los Angeles, 2013

Professor Ian Krouse, Co-Chair
Professor Roger Bourland, Co-Chair

Voyage of the Soul is a concert work for baritone, piano, and string quintet (2 violins, viola, violoncello, and contrabass). The text is made up of selections from six poems from *Leaves of Grass*, Walt Whitman’s poetry collection and *magnum opus*. The common thread throughout the poetry selections is one of facing mortality and the idea of the immortality of the soul. Although a literal reading of Whitman’s writings about death and the soul is possible, the “voyage” of this piece is about a personal progression of emotions and perspectives relating to mortality and possible immortality: wonder, fear, loneliness, awe, courage, and finally peaceful acceptance. Much of the melodic material was derived from an early 19th-century American hymn tune, “What Wondrous Love Is This,” known to many from its inclusion in the shape note hymn book *The Southern Harmony*. The tune makes a full appearance at the climax of the piece.

\[\text{\footnote{CCEL Southern Harmony page}}\]
The thesis of Zachery Daniel Neufeld is approved.

Vladimir Chernov

Roger Bourland, Co-Chair

Ian Krouse, Co-Chair

University of California, Los Angeles

2013
To my parents, who have always supported my musical ventures, and continue to do so.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Score of the thesis</td>
<td>p. 1 - 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Bibliography</td>
<td>p. 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voyage of the Soul

written for Ryan Thorn and my friends at UCLA.

Walt Whitman

Voyage of the Soul
written for Ryan Thorn and my friends at UCLA.

Zach Neufeld
through Nature Time and Space as a

ship on the wait-ers ad - van-cing the Voy-age of the Soul not life a - lone Death, ma-ny-deaths I'll

nat. poco rall.

pp poco rall.
34  \( \text{d} = 52 \ \text{Floating} \)

sing.

\( \text{pp} \) una corda

con ped.

\( \text{d} = 52 \ \text{Floating} \)

sul tasto, non vib.

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

38

\( \text{mp} \)

Dar est Thou now O

sul tasto, non vib.

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)

\( \text{pp} \)
Un-known Re-gion the Un-known Re-gion where nei-ther ground is for the feet nor an-y path to fol-low fol-low


fol-low? brightly shimmering
poco rall. \( \dot{q} = 70 \) Freely, moving

mp

no map there nor guide nor voice
lips nor eyes are in that land.
I know it not. O Soul.
thou

all is blank before us all

wants

un-dreamed of in that region that in-a-cess-i-ble
land!

Twice as fast \( j = 132 \)

violently

Twice as fast \( j = 132 \)

violently

violently

violently

violently

violently
hear

bi-al gos-sip of

ight

bi-lant chor-ales

mp

non vib.

pp

non vib.

pp

non vib.

p

pizz.

mf

foot-steps gent-ly as cen-ding

my-sti-cal bree-zes

waf-ten soft

and low
Same tempo, distant and majestic $q = 64$

I see just skyward, great cloud masses mournful, same tempo, distant and majestic

Slowly they roll, swelling and mixing, swelling and mixing, with at times
fortressed house from the clasp of the knitted locks from the

keep of the well closed doors let me be waf...
...ted... let me glide... noise... less... ly... forth... with... the... 

key of soft... ness... un... lock... the... locks... with... a... whis... per... set... ope... the... doors...
This is thy hour O Soul thy free flight in-to the word-less thee ful-ly forth e-mer-ging si-lent
Floating, as before $j = 52$

ga-zing pon-der-ing the themes thou lov-est best night, sleep, death, and the stars.

Floating, as before $j = 52$

con ped.
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/walker/harmony/files hymn/Wondrous_Love.html>