This is Water!

for flute, clarinet, drum kit, string quartet and tape

Chris Swithinbank

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Approximate Duration: 6-7 minutes

This is Water! was composed in January 2010 for the inaugural concert of the Raise Your Voice Ensemble — Sunday, February 28 2010 at Centro Bar, Manchester, UK. It takes its name from the book of the same title by David Foster Wallace, subtitled 'Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion, about Living a Compassionate Life' (Little, Brown & co., New York, 2009). Here is the passage, which gives that book its name:

There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says, "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes, "What the hell is water?"

[...]

The immediate point of the fish story is merely that the most obvious, ubiquitous, important realities are often the ones that are hardest to see and talk about.

The FREE SPACE

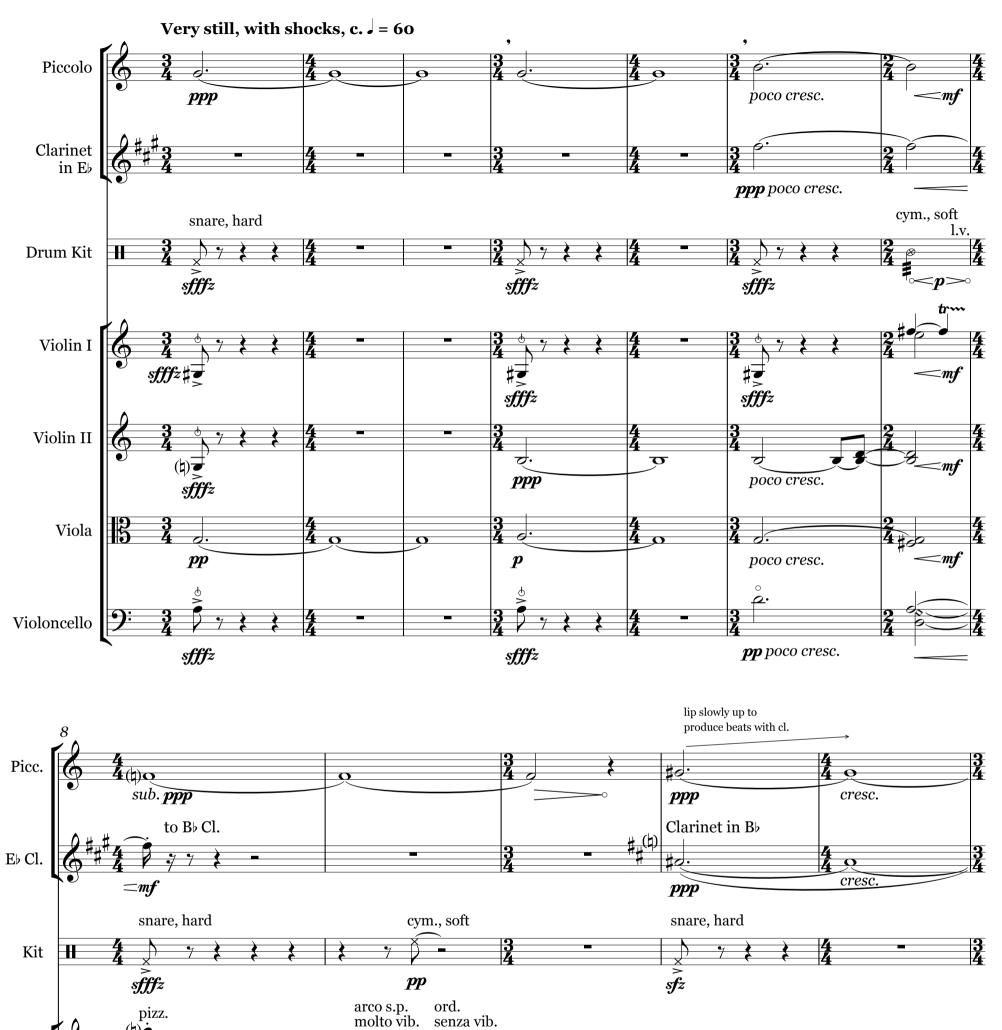
The work leads into and away from a central, freely improvised section. One suggested method of performance is to include the work twice in a programme and to invite the audience to participate in performing this section with the on-stage musicians. If this is to be attempted, the audience should be provided with instruction cards similar to the requests made in the wavy box on p.5.

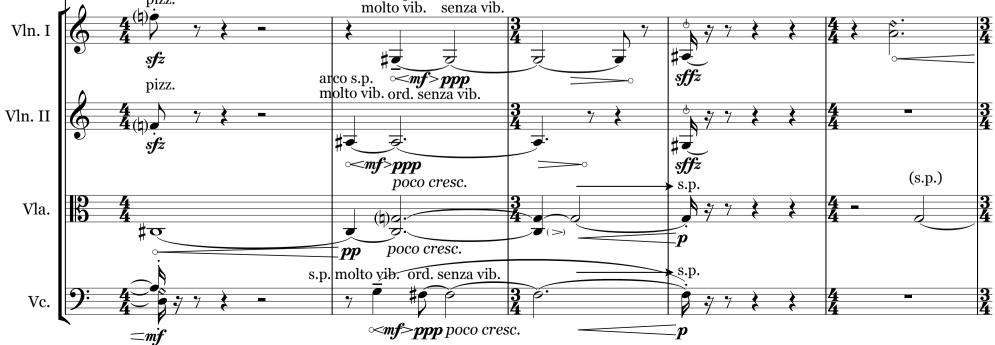
During this section the tape part, which consists of an environment of quiet and tactile sounds, is played and the players are requested to react in some way to it, potentially using the guidelines set out on p.5 of the score. One parameter that **must** be adhered to is the dynamic range of this section — please explore a wide range of sounds, but only those feasible at *ppp-pp*. Extended techniques and instrumental explorations with which the players themselves are not familiar are encouraged.

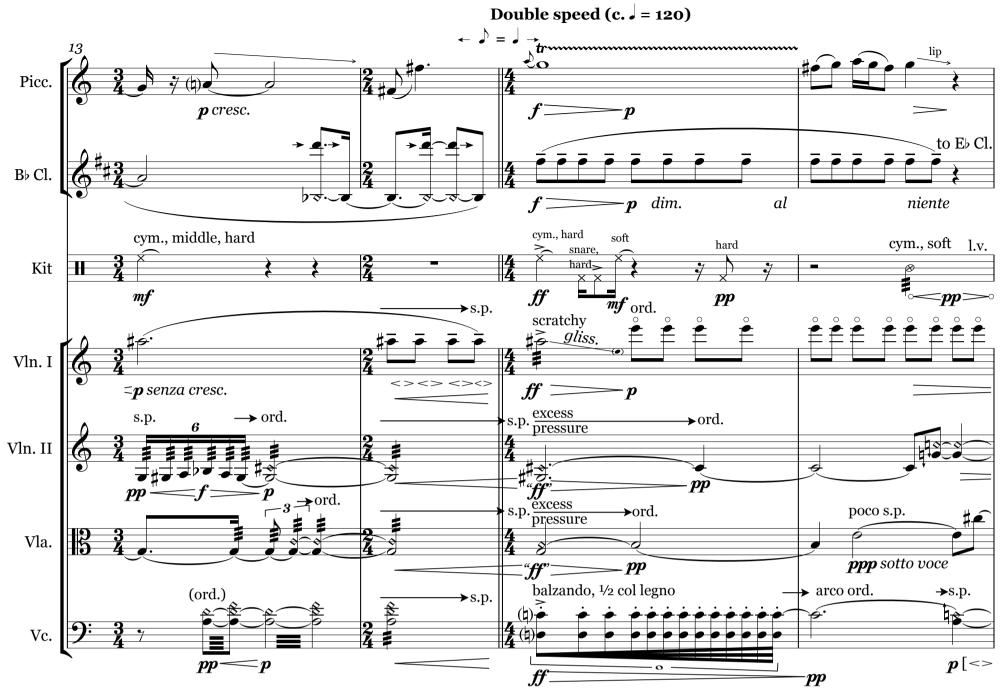
This is Water!

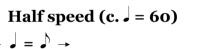
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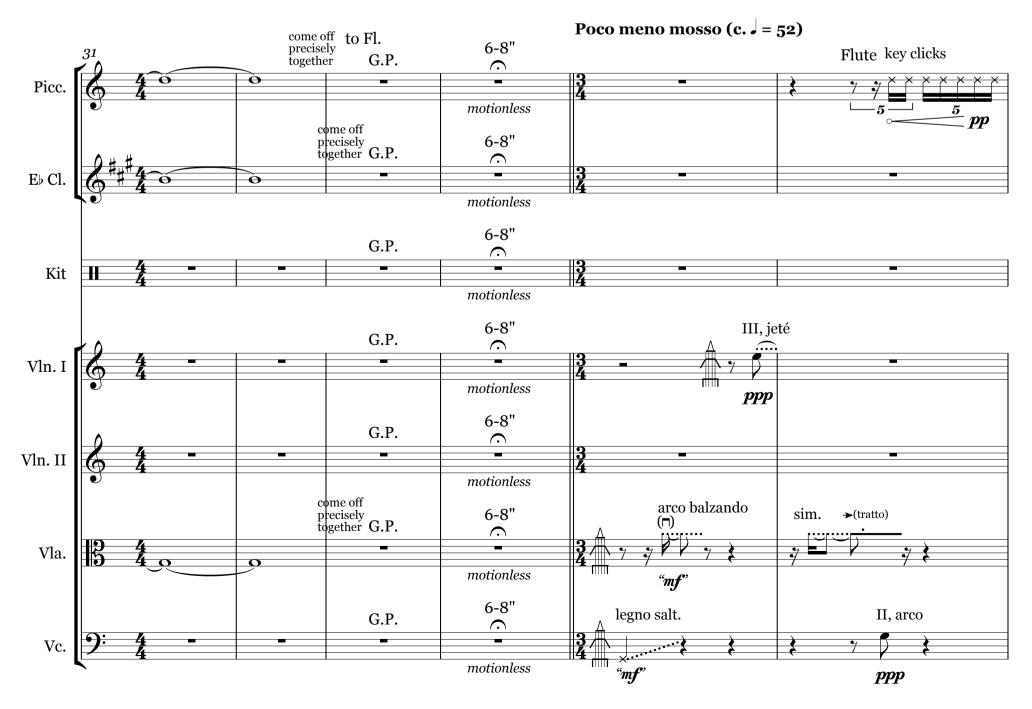




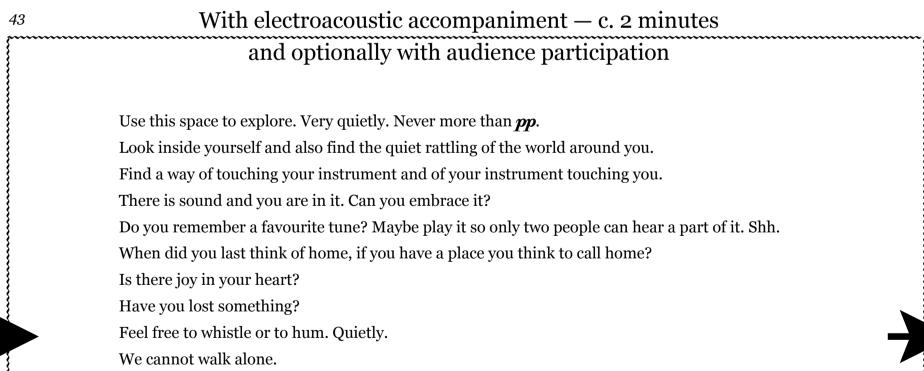












There are no paths, only walking. Walk.

Use this space to explore. Very quietly.

Use this space for something you wouldn't normally do and in doing it change something. Don't be afraid.

Use this space to explore.

Very

quietly.

Poco più mosso (c. 🖌 = 60) 44 Fl. 4 4 E♭ Cl à snare, hard Dr.) H 4 sfz Vln. I 4 4 *"ff*" \overline{pp} (\/) V □ etc. V Vln. II 3 p·3 "**ff**" pp scratchtone □ (\/) n V ⊓ etc. V ₿ Vla. $\propto p \times$ "ff \tilde{p} *"ff"* • Vc ≢' sfz

