

N° 1129

Eve Beglarian

The Flood

for flexible instrumentation and spoken voice



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The Flood is a setting of a poem Robert Frost wrote in 1928 in response to the devastating flood of the Mississippi River that took place the previous year. My land in Vermont is just a few miles from where Frost lived for many years, and I felt what I imagine to be a parallel rage and impotence in response to Katrina.

To the performers:

I have written the piece with the idea that it can be performed with live piano, bass, and drums or with electronic playback of some or all of these players; and with three or four singer/musicians on the rising line, or with forty. The more people performing the rising line, the better: you can feel free to spread your rise, stopping and holding before the top note, or continuing beyond it. The important thing is to continue pushing the intensity with each phrase of the rise, in whatever way works for the forces you have at hand.

The drum line notates the attack rhythm ONLY: it is up to you to work out the most effective orchestration of the hits. The idea is to stutter out the rhythm until eventually, at m. 37, you have built the whole pattern. Once you have established it, you can of course feel free to intensify and vary it.

If you need a particular mix of the backing tracks for your performance, please feel free to contact me at eve@evbvd.com.

The Flood

eve beglarian, music
robert frost, words

♩ = 85

Blood has been harder to dam back than water.

text

rise

bass

dr

pf

swing 16ths

7

Just when we think we have it impounded—safe—Behind new barrier walls (and let it chafe!), It breaks away—in some new kind of

12

slaughter. We choose to say it is let loose by the devil; But power of blood itself releases blood. It

16

goes by might of being such a flood Held high at so unnatural a level. It

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21

will have outlet, brave and not so brave. Weapons of war and implements of

Musical score for measures 21-24. The system includes a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in bass clef, and a percussion line in the middle. The piano part features a complex texture with many beamed sixteenth notes and chords. The vocal line has triplet markings over the notes 'outlet', 'brave', and 'Weapons'. The percussion line consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes.

25

peace Are but the points at which it finds release. And now it is once more the tidal

Musical score for measures 25-28. The system includes a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in bass clef, and a percussion line in the middle. The piano part continues with complex rhythmic patterns. The vocal line has a triplet marking over the notes 'And now'. The percussion line maintains its rhythmic patterns.

29

wave That when it has swept by leaves summits stained. Oh, blood will out.

Musical score for measures 29-32. The system includes a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in bass clef, and a percussion line in the middle. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns. The vocal line has triplet markings over the notes 'leaves' and 'stained'. The percussion line continues with its rhythmic patterns.

33

It cannot be contained.

Musical score for measures 33-36. The system includes a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in bass clef, and a percussion line in the middle. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns. The vocal line has triplet markings over the notes 'It cannot'. The percussion line continues with its rhythmic patterns. A 'swung 16ths' instruction is placed above the piano part in measure 34.

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37

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score is written for a piano and includes a treble clef staff, a bass clef staff, and a grand staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody in the treble clef features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, followed by a half note. The bass clef staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The grand staff includes a piano part with chords and a bass line. A text annotation "this pattern repeats til the end" is placed above the piano part in the first measure.

41

Musical score for measures 41-44. The score is written for a piano and includes a treble clef staff, a bass clef staff, and a grand staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody in the treble clef features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, followed by a half note. The bass clef staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The grand staff includes a piano part with chords and a bass line.

45

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is written for a piano and includes a treble clef staff, a bass clef staff, and a grand staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody in the treble clef features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, followed by a half note. The bass clef staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The grand staff includes a piano part with chords and a bass line.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52. The score is written for a piano and includes a treble clef staff, a bass clef staff, and a grand staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody in the treble clef features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, followed by a half note. The bass clef staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The grand staff includes a piano part with chords and a bass line.

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53

Musical score for measures 53-56. The score is written for a piano and includes a vocal line. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 53, followed by a half note and a whole note. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a series of chords in the right hand, some with triplets. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

57

Musical score for measures 57-60. The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 57. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

61

Musical score for measures 61-64. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 61. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

65

Musical score for measures 65-68. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 65. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment. The key signature and time signature remain the same.