

Commissioned by the Australian String Quartet as part of the National Composers Forum 2011

How Dragonflies Cross the Ocean

String Quartet no. 2



2011

Approx. Duration: 8'30"

Melody Eötvös

+1 (812) 369-6993

melodyeotvos.com.au

melody.eotvos@hotmail.com

©Melody Eötvös 2011 | Eötvös Publishing



PROGRAM NOTES

This composition for string quartet is inspired by the natural phenomenon of the longest migration of any insect on earth: the dragonfly *Pantala Flavescens*, more commonly known as the globe skimmer. I felt an incredibly strong link to the idea of the fragile, but stereotypically majestic insect making such an unanticipated journey for the entire duration of its life. In fact, it takes four generations of this dragonfly to complete the circuit it starts out initially from India.

For me personally I attached myself to the idea of global travel and the constancy of change that moves around you while trying to stay focused and centered on some kind of direction. This composition is about following a line through episodes of tension and climactic strain, all with the purpose of settling into a flow which is more calm and soothing but that still inherently connects back to the experiences which lead into it.

- Melody Eötvös

How Dragonflies Cross the Ocean

String Quartet No. 2

Duration: 8'30" minutes

Melody Eötvös (2011)

Violin I $\text{♩} = 96$

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

This system contains the first four staves of the score. The Violin I part starts with a *pp* dynamic, followed by *ppp*, *f*, and *pp*. The Violin II part begins with *pizz* and *f*, then *f* and *pp*. The Viola part starts with *f* and *pp*. The Violoncello part is marked *pp*. The time signature is 3/4.

4

This system contains staves 5 through 8. The Violin I part has dynamics *fp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *pizz*, and *p < f*. The Violin II part has *fp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *pizz*, and *mp f*. The Viola part has *f*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *f > p*. The Violoncello part has *mf*, *f*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *f > p*. The time signature changes to 3/4.

8

A

arco **molto accel.** $\text{♩} = 138$ $\text{♩} = 96$ **Meno Mosso**

This system contains staves 9 through 12. The Violin I part starts with *f* and *p*. The Violin II part starts with *f* and *p*. The Viola part starts with *ppp*, *f*, and *p*. The Violoncello part starts with *ppp*, *f*, and *p*. The time signature changes to 3/4.

molto accel.

11

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score consists of four staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The second staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The third staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *f*. The tempo marking **molto accel.** is present at the top right.

B

$\text{♩} = 138$

14

Musical score for measures 14-17. The score consists of four staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. The second staff is in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. The third staff is in bass clef with a 7/8 time signature. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a 7/8 time signature. Dynamics include *sp*, *f*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ppp*. There are triplets marked with a '3' in the second and third staves.

C

$\text{♩} = 69$ (half tempo)

G.P.

18

Musical score for measures 18-21. The score consists of four staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The second staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The third staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *ppp*, *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*. There are triplets marked with a '3' in the second and third staves. The marking *sim.* is used for some notes.

J

104

pizz

p *f*

f

arco

ppp

pizz

p *f*

f

arco

ord.

sul pont.

mf *p*

arco sul pont.

sul A

sul D

f *pp* *mf* *pp* *f*

106

mp *pp* *p*

pp *mf* *f* *p*

arco

mp *pp* *mf* *p*

pp *mp* *pp*

K

♩=96 Meno Mosso

sul pont.

109

pp *p* *mf*

sul pont.

pp *p* *mf*

mp *mf*

pp *mp* *mf*

112 *ord.* *sul pont.*

pp

ord. *ppp* *pp*

non vib. *mf*

p *ppp*

rit. *sul pont.*

116

ppp

sul pont. *ppp*

L

$\text{♩} = 96$ A Tempo

120 *ord.*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

ord. *pp* *mf* *p*

ord. *mf* *pp*

ord. *mf* *pp*

Musical score for measures 183-186. The score consists of four staves: three treble clefs and one bass clef. The first three staves have dynamics *p*, *mf*, *pp*, and *mf* in the first measure, and *ff* in the last measure. The fourth staff has dynamics *ppp* and *p*. There are triplets and a quintuplet in the first two staves. A fermata is present at the end of the first staff.

R

Musical score for measures 187-190. The score consists of four staves: three treble clefs and one bass clef. The first three staves are empty. The fourth staff has dynamics *f* and *p*. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ is present at the beginning.

Tenderly

Musical score for measures 191-194. The score consists of four staves: three treble clefs and one bass clef. The first three staves are empty. The fourth staff has dynamics *pp*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *mf*. There are triplets in the first two staves. The instruction *con sord* appears in the second and third staves.

195 *con sord*
ppp
p *mf*
pp *mp* *f* *mp*

S

199
pp *mf*
p *f*
pp *ppp*

203
pp *mp*
p
p *mf* *pp* *mp* *f*
mp *p*

senza sord.

V

233 *pizz*

f mp mf p f mp mf p f³

pizz arco

f mp mf p pp

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

237

pp mf mp

3 3 3 3

mp f mp f

mp f

W

240 $\text{♩} = 60$ *Meno Mosso* *molto accel.*

pp pp

pp mp pp

pp mp pp

How Dragonflies Cross the Ocean - Full score

24

$\text{♩} = 90$

accel.

$(\text{♩} = 108)$

243

Musical score for measures 243-245. The score is in 3/4 time and features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is marked with accents and includes a tempo change to 108 bpm. The key signature has one flat.

$(\text{♩} = 120)$

$\text{♩} = 138$

246

Musical score for measures 246-248. The score is in 3/4 time and features four staves. The music is marked with accents and includes a tempo change to 138 bpm. The key signature has one flat. Dynamics include *ff* and *fff*.

X

249

$\text{♩} = 96$ *Meno Mosso*

Musical score for measures 249-251. The score is in 3/4 time and features four staves. The music is marked with accents and includes a tempo change to 96 bpm (*Meno Mosso*). The key signature has one flat. Dynamics include *fff*, *mp*, and *pp*. A triplet is indicated in the bass line.