

# Olber's Dance in the Dark

String Quartet no. 1

(rev. 2014)

Duration: approx. 9 minutes

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At night step outside and, weather permitting, take a look at the brightly lit backbone in the sky. On a clear night your observations made of the night sky can be every bit as profound as Einstein's or Kepler's. The fact that the night sky is dark, and not as bright as the burning star at the center of our solar system tells us the most fundamental thing about our universe. The catch in Olber's paradox is that it is impossible for the universe to be infinitely large because if it were there would not be a dark sky at night, due to every point in our line of sight being taken up by the forever existing light of a star, whether near or far, similar to the way you would not be able catch sight of the landscape which sits just beyond a dense forest of trees stretching out for miles and miles.

Composed for the Australian String Quartet

# - Olber's Dance in the Dark -

String Quartet no. 1

Suspended, with the expectation of falling

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♩ = 120

Violin I: *pizz*, *f*, *arco con sord*, *pp*

Violin II: *(arco) con sord*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *sul pont.*, *mf*

Viola: *(arco) con sord*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*

Violoncello: *pizz*, *f*, *arco con sord*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *mp*, *p*

5 *poco rit.*

Vln. I: *pizz*, *mf*, *mp*

Vln. II: *pizz*, *mp*, *arco ord*, *mf*, *mp*

Vla.: *(tr)*, *f*, *pp*, *pp*, *ff*

Vc.: *ff*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *pp*

**A**  $\text{♩} = 120$   
*A tempo I*

*sul pont. arco*

Vln. I *(pizz)* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf < ff*

Vln. II *pp* *pp* *pp < mf* *pp* *mf < ff*

Vla. *sul pont. arco* *pp* *mf* *pp < ff* *mf < ff* *mp*

Vc. *pizz* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp < ff* *mf < ff* *mp < ff*

Vln. I *(pizz)* *mf* *ff* *ff* *G.P.*

Vln. II *pp* *f* *pp* *ff* *ff* *G.P.*

Vla. *ff* *mp* *f* *p* *ff* *ff* *ppp* *G.P.*

Vc. *pp* *ff* *p* *ff* *ff* *ppp* *G.P.*

**B**  $\text{♩} = 120$   
*A tempo I*

*poco rit.*

Vln. I *senza sord.* *p* *f* *pizz* *f*

Vln. II *senza sord.* *p* *f* *f* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p* *f > mp* *p < f* *senza sord.* *f* *p*

Vc. *ff* *p* *f > mp* *p < f* *senza sord.* *f* *p*

**H**

75

Vln. I: *pp*, *ord.*, *mp*, *sul tast.*, *ppp*

Vln. II: *ppp*, *pizz*, *mf*, *p*

Vla.: *pp*, *ord.*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *arco*

Vc.: *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pizz*, *p*, *mp*

*poco rit.*

80

Vln. I: *mf*, *pp*, *sul pont.*

Vln. II: *mp*, *arco*, *p*, *sul pont.*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*

Vla.: *mp*, *sul pont.*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*

Vc.: *pp*, *mp*, *p*, *sul pont.*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*

84

Vln. I: *mf*, *(sul pont.)*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*

Vln. II: *(sul pont.)*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *sul tast.*, *ppp*

Vla.: *(sul pont.)*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *sul tast.*, *ppp*

Vc.: *mf*, *pp*, *(sul pont.)*, *mf*, *(sul pont.)*, *mf*, *ppp*

G.P.

I ♩ = 80

89

Vln. I *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vln. II *ord. sul D* *sul pont* *ppp* *mf pp*

Vla. *ppp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

Vc. *ppp*

94

Vln. I *mp pp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Vln. II

Vla. *pp* *f* *p* *f* *mf pp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *ppp*

J Più mosso ♩ = 88

100

Vln. I *mf* *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *ppp* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* *mf pp*

Vc. *mf* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *f*

Più mosso

**P** ♩ = 104

151 *senza sord.*

Vln. I: *pp*, *f*, *subp*, *f*, *p*

Vln. II: *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*

Vla.: *f*, *p*, *fp*, *f*, *mp*

Vc.: *f*, *ff*, *mf*, *ff*, *pizz*, *mf*

Meno mosso

**155** ♩ = 84

Vln. I: *ff*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *f*, *pizz*, *mf*

Vln. II: *ff*, *arco*, *mp*, *f*, *tr*

Vla.: *f*, *f*, *pizz*, *arco*, *pp*

Vc.: *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*

**Q**

158 *arco*

Vln. I: *f*, *p*, *mf*, *ff*

Vln. II: *pp*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, *pizz*, *mf*

Vla.: *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *p*

Vc.: *mp*, *f*, *p*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *f*, *p*, *ff*, *mp*, *f*, *p*, *ff*, *mf*

162 *ord.*

Violin I: *p*, *f*, *pp*, *sul pont*, *mf*, *fp*

Violin II: *f*, *arco*, *f*, *pp*, *sul pont*, *mf*

Viola: *f*, *3*, *f*, *pp*, *f*, *p*, *f*

Violoncello: *arco*, *pizz*, *arco*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *ff*

poco accel. . . . .

166

Violin I: *ff*, *mf*, *ff*, *mp*

Violin II: *ff*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *ff*

Viola: *ord.*, *mf*, *ff*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*

Violoncello: *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *mf*

169

Violin I: *ff*, *p*, *f*, *ff*, *mp*

Violin II: *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *ff*, *mp*

Viola: *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *mp*

Violoncello: *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, *f*



X Soft, but Darkly

205

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vln. II *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp*

*sul tasto* *sul tasto* *sul tasto*

*arco*

209

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *f* *pp*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *f* *pp*

Vla. *p* *f* *pp*

Vc. *mp p* *f* *pp*

*sul tasto* *sul tasto* *sul tasto*

214

Vln. I *f* *mf* *mp* *f* *f*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *f* *f* *mp* *pp* *f* *f* *mp* *f*

*ord.* *arco* *arco* *arco sul pont.*

218

Vln. I: *pp*, *mf*, *pizz*, *arco sul pont.*, *pp*

Vln. II: *mf*, *pp*, *sul pont.*, *pp*

Vla.: *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *sul tasto*, *pp*

Vc.: *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *pp*

222

*rit.*

Vln. I: *mf*, *ord.*, *sul pont.*, *ppp*, *pizz*, *p*

Vln. II: *mf*, *ord.*, *sul pont.*, *ppp*, *pizz*, *mp*

Vla.: *mf*, *ppp*, *mp*, *pizz*

Vc.: *p*, *arco sul pont.*, *ppp*, *pizz*, *p*