

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

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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 three measures of the piece. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 96. Dynamics include *pp*, *ppp*, *f*, and *pp*. Performance instructions include *pizz* (pizzicato) and *arco* (arco). There are triplets in the Violin II and Viola parts.

4

This system contains measures 4 through 6. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The time signature changes to 3/4. Dynamics include *fp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *p < f*, *mp*, *f*, *p*, *f*, and *p*. Performance instructions include *pizz* and triplets.

8

A

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

This system contains measures 8 through 10. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The time signature changes to 3/4. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, *f*, *mp*, *ppp*, *f*, *p*, *ppp*, *f*, and *p*. Performance instructions include *arco* and *mf*.

molto accel.

11

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. Measure 11 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 12 has a *p* dynamic. Measure 13 has a *f* dynamic. The tempo is marked **molto accel.** at the top right. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4.

B

$\text{♩} = 138$

14

Musical score for measures 14-16. The score consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. Measure 14 starts with a *sp* dynamic. Measure 15 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 16 has a *mp* dynamic. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 138$. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4.

C

G.P.

$\text{♩} = 69$ (half tempo)

18

Musical score for measures 18-20. The score consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. Measure 18 starts with a *ppp* dynamic. Measure 19 has a *pp* dynamic. Measure 20 has a *mp > pp* dynamic. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 69$ (half tempo). The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4.

J arco

104 pizz *p* *f* *f* *ppp*

pizz *p* *f* *f* *ppp*

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

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 are for the right hand, and the fourth is for the left hand. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, and *ff*. There are triplets and a quintuplet in the right hand. The bass line starts with *ppp* and ends with *p*.

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 (bass) contains the music. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ is present. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

Tenderly

Musical score for measures 191-194. The score consists of four staves: three treble clefs and one bass clef. The first two staves are empty. The third staff (bass) contains the music with triplets and dynamics *pp* and *mf*. The fourth staff (bass) contains the music with dynamics *f*, *p*, and *mf*. The word *con sord* is written above the first and third staves.

195 *con sord*
ppp

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

199 **S**

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

203

pp *mp*
p *senza sord.* *pp* *mp* *f*
p *mf* *pp* *mp* *f*
mp *p*

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

$\text{♩} = 90$

accel.

$(\text{♩} = 108)$

243

Musical score for measures 243-245. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a more active melody in the treble. Dynamics include *ff* and *fff*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is visible across the page.

$(\text{♩} = 120)$

$\text{♩} = 138$

246

Musical score for measures 246-248. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The music is characterized by a strong, driving eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and treble. Dynamics include *ff* and *fff*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is visible across the page.

X

249 $\text{♩} = 96$ *Meno Mosso*

Musical score for measures 249-251. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The tempo is marked *Meno Mosso* at $\text{♩} = 96$. The music features a more relaxed eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and treble. Dynamics include *fff*, *pp*, and *mp*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is visible across the page.