

SONG OF ACCEPTANCE

(1980)

for three voices
and eight instruments

Kyle E. Gann

Instrumentation:

Flute
French Horn
Trombone
Tuba
Celeste
Two Violins
Cello
Three Voices:

I:  II:  III: 

All instruments are notated at actual pitch, including the celeste.

Song of Acceptance is submitted for partial completion of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music at Northwestern University. The work is gratefully dedicated to my teacher, Peter Gena.

Texts:

Abandon learning and there will be no sorrow...
What people dread, do not fail to dread.
But, alas, how confused, and the end is not yet.
The multitude are merry, as though feasting on a day of
sacrifice...

I alone am inert, showing no sign of desires,
Like an infant that has not yet smiled.
Wearied, indeed, I seem to be without a home.
The multitude all possess more than enough,
I alone seem to have lost all.
Mine is indeed the mind of an ignorant man,
Indiscriminate and dull.
Common folks are indeed brilliant;
I alone seem to be in the dark...
I seem drifting as the sea;
Like the wind blowing about, seemingly without destination.
The multitude all have a purpose;
I alone seem to be stubborn and rustic.

from Lao Tzu, Tao-te Ching, 20
(trans. Wing-tsit Chan)

The sun also riseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth
to the place where it rose.
All things are full of labor; man cannot utter it. The
eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with
hearing.
There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat
and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in
his labor.
For what hath man of all his labor, and of the vexation of his
heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun?
There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there
be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that
shall come after.

from Ecclesiastes 1, 2

There was never any more inception than there is now,
Nor any more youth or age than there is now,
And will never be any more perfection than there is now,
Nor any more heaven or hell than there is now.

Clear and sweet is my soul, and clear and sweet is all that
is not my soul...
Showing the best and dividing it from the worst age vexes age.
Knowing the perfect fitness and equanimity, while they discuss
I am silent.

from Walt Whitman, Song of Myself, 3

SONG OF ACCEPTANCE

Kyle E. Gann
1980

$\text{♩} = c. 60$

Flute

5
4

French Horn

Trambone

5
4

Tuba

5
4

Celeste

5
4

mf

p

f

mf

pp

mf

sfz p

5

$\text{♩} = c. 60$

I

5

Voices II

4

III

mp

There

p

But

f

alas

mf

how confused

and the

end

b2

$\text{♩} = c. 60$

I

5
4

Violins

II

5
4

Cello

p

mp

b2

8ve

Fl. $\#^b$ p pp

Fr. Hn. $\#^b$ p

Trom. ff

Tuba $\#^b$ pp

Cel. $\#^b$ pp $L 3 _$

(20)

I $\#^b$ $r37$ $r37$ pp mf sfz

Wearied, indeed I seem to be without a home The multitude all possess more than enough

Voices II $\#^b$ pp mp f p

that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor

III $\#^b$ pp mp f p

and will never be any more perfection than there is now

Vns. I $\#^b$ p mf pp mf pp

Vns. II pp mp f p

Vc. $\#^b$ pp mf pp f pp $5:4$

Fl. *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

Fr. Hn. *pp* *f*

Trom. *p* *pp*

Tuba *pp*

Cel. *pp* *ff* *pp*

(25) (30)

I *I* *alone* *seem to have lost all*

Voices II *For what hath man of all his labor, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun?*

III *nor any more heaven or hell than there is now*

I *mf* *p*

II *f* *p*

Vc. *p*

Fl. 110

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba.

Cel.

I

Voices II

III

Spoken

There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

clear and sweet is my soul, and clear and sweet is all that is not my soul. Showing the best and dividing it from the worst age vexes age

I

Vns. II

Vc

ppp

ff

Pizz

Arco

ff

p

Fl. *bo* *r 3-1* *ff* *#0* *p*

Fr. Hn. *pp*

Trom. *#0*

Tuba *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Cel. *f* *ff* *p*

(40)

I Spoken: Common folks are indeed brilliant; I alone seem to be in the dark.

Voices II The sun riseth, and the sun goeth down, and also hasteth to the place where it rose.

III Knowing the perfect fitness and equanimity, while they discuss I am silent.

I *8ve* *f* *p* *f* *p* *br* *br* *p* *p*

Vns. II *f* *p* *sfz*

Vc. *f* *mf* *p* *ff*

3:2 *mf* *p* *ff*

Fl. *p* *mf* *f* *p*

Fr. Hn. *pp* *f*

Trom.

Tuba *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Cel.

(45)

I *slowly* *f* *p*

Voices II *Spoken:* *f* *pp* *f* *mf*

Voices III *f* *pp* *f* *mf*

I see drifting as the sea, like the wind blowing about, seemingly without destination

All things are full of labor man cannot utter it the eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the

There was never any more inception than there is now

I *f* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p*

Uns. I *ppp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p*

Uns. II *ppp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p*

Vc. *p*

Fl. *f* *mf* *p*

Fr. Hn. *sfz*

Trom. *sfz pp* *f*

Tuba *pp*

Cel. *bi*

(50)

I Spoken:

The multitude all have a purpose I alone seem to be stubborn and rustic

Voices II ear filled with hearing

III nor any more youth or age than there is

I *ff* *mf* *p* *p*

Vns. II *f* *p*

Vc. *Pizz* *Arco*

Fl.

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba

Cel.

59

60

I Spoken

Abandon learning and
there will be no sorrow...

what people dread,
do not fail to dread

Voices II

There is nothing better for a man

III

now

and will never be
any more perfection than there is now

I

Vns.

II

Vc

f

p

mf

p

mp

Fl. b^{\flat}

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba

Cel.

(65)

I

II

III

But alas how confused and the end is not yet

than that he should eat and drink and that he should make his

nor any more heaven or hell than there is now

I

II

Vc

Fl.
 Fr. Hn.
 Trom.
 Tuba
 Cel.
 I
 Voices II
 III
 I
 Vns. II
 Vc.

Fl.
 Fr. Hn.
 Trom.
 Tuba
 Cel.
 I
 Voices II
 III
 I
 Vns. II
 Vc.

The multitude are merry, as though feasting on a day of sacrifice
 I alone am inert
 soul enjoy good in his labor
 For what hath man of all his labor, and of
 Clear and sweet is my soul, and clear and sweet 'is all that is not my soul

70
 8ve

Fl. *mf* *p*

Fr. Hn. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Trom. *pp*

Tuba *pp*

Cel. *p*

(75)

I showing no sign of desires like an infant that has not yet smiled wearied,

Voices II the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun?

Spoken: III Showing the best and dividing it from the worst age vexes age Knowing the perfect fitness and equanimity, while they discuss I am silent

I *mf* *p* *f* *p*

Vns. II *pp* *p* *f* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mf* *pp*

5:4

Fl.

Fr. th.

Trom.

Tuba

Cel.

(80)

I

indeed I seem to be without a home

The multitude all possess more than enough

Spoken:

There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

III

There was never any more inception than there is now

I

Vns.

II

Vc.

Fl. *ff* *p* *sfz* *pp* *ff*

Fr. Hn. *p* *f* *sfz* *pp* *ff*

Trom. *f*

Tuba *pp* *ff*

Cel. *mf* *mf* *mp*

(85) (90)

I *mf* *mf* *mp* *3*

Voices II *mf* *mf* *mp* *3*

III *mf* *mf* *mp* *3*

alone seem to have lost all

The sun riseth, and the sun goeth down,
also, and hasteth to the place where
it rose.

nor anymore youth or age

I *p* *ff* *f* *sfz*

Vns. II *mp* *ff* *sub mp* *p* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *Arco* *sub mp* *p* *f*

Fl.

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba

Cel.

(95)

I

Voices II

III

Spoken:

All things are full of labor man cannot utter it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the ear and will never be any more perfection than there is

mine is indeed the mind of an ignorant man Indiscriminate and dull

I

Vns. II

Vc.

mf

f

ff

exp. #

Fl.

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba

Cel

f *ff* *p* *f* *mf*

r 3 7

(100)

I

Spoken:

Common folks are indeed brilliant; I alone seem to be in the dark.

Voices II

filled with hearing

III

#0 now

now

any more heaven or hell

r 3 7

I

Vns.

II

Vc.

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

f *sfz p*

r 3 7

Fl. *10*

Fri. Th. *pp* *f* *sfz*

Trom. *pp*

Tuba *p* *f* *mf*

Cel. *105*

I *slowly* *f* *p*

II *p*

III *gliss*

I seem drifting as the sea. like the wind, blowing about, seemingly without destination

There is nothing better for a man than

than there is now clear and sweet is my soul, and clear and sweet

I *b_e* *f* *mf* *p* *mf*

II *f* *p* *p*

Vc. *Pizz* *Arco* *mf* *p*

Fl. *p* *ff* *p*

Fr. Hrn. *ff* *p* *mf* *pp*

Trom. *ff* *p* *pp*

Tuba *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *f*

Cel. *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

110

I Spoken: The multitude all have a purpose. I alone seem to be stubborn and rustic. Abandon learning and there will be no sorrow.

Voices II that he should eat and drink and that he should make his soul enjoy

III Spoken: is all that is not my soul. Showing the best and dividing it from the worst age vexes age. Knowing the perfect fitness and equanimity.

I *p* *ff* *p*

Vns. II *p* *ff* *pp* *p*

Vc. *mp*

Fl. *mf* *f* *mf*

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba *pp*

Cel.

(115) (120)

I *mf* what people dread, do not fail to dread But,

Voices II good in his labor For what hath men of all his labor, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath

III while they discuss, I am silent There was never any more inception than there is

I *mf* *p* *sfz*

Vns. II *f* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *pp* *p*

Fl.

Fr. Hn.

Trom.

Tuba

Cel.

Tacet

f *ff* *mf* *f* *ff*

(125)

I

Alas how confused and the end is not yet

Voices II

labored under the sun?

III

now nor any more youth or age

I

Vns.

II

Vc.

f *p* *sfz* *pp* *mp* *f* *p*

Fl. *ff* *p*

Trom. *p sfz* *f* *mp* *p*

Tuba

Cel.

(135)

I
no sign of desires like an infant that has not yet smiled wearied, indeed, I

Voices II
The sun riseth, and the sun goeth down, also and hasteth to the place where it rose

III
than there is now nor any more heaven or hell

Spoken:
All things are full of labor

I *sfz* *p*

Vns. *pp* *mp*

Vc. *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Fl. *p*

Tuba *sfz* *pp* *p* *mf*

Cel. *mf* *ff* *mf*

(145) (150)

I *mf* *mf* *mp* *r 3*

Voices II

Voices III *gliss* *spoken:*

clear and sweet is my soul, and clear and sweet is all that is not my soul. Showing the best and dividing it from the worst age vexes age.

alone " seem to have lost all

I *b2* *f* *pp* *mf*

Vns I *f* *p* *ppp* *mp*

Vns II *f* *p* *ppp* *mp*

Vc *mf* *p* *ff* *p*

expr. #c

Fl. *pp* *ff*

Tuba *pp*

Cel. *pp* *f* *ff*

I *gliss.* *r 3 7*

Voices II *r 3 7* *gliss.*

III *r 3 7* *r 3 7*

There is nothing better for a man than that he should

Knowing the perfect fitness and equanimity, while they discuss I am silent. There was never any more inception

I *pp* *f* *sfz*

Vns. *pp* *p* *mp*

II *pp* *p* *mp*

Vc

Fl. *p*

Tuba *pp* *ff* *pp*

Cel.

(160)

I Spoken:
Common folks are indeed brilliant; I alone seem to be in the dark.

Voices II
eat and drink and that he should make his soul enjoy good

III
than there is now nor any more youth or

I *pp* *f* *pp*

Uns. *pp* *f* *pp* *Tacet*

Vc. *Pizz.* *Arco*

Fl.

Tuba

Cel.

(165)

I

slowly

f

p

spoken:

II

in his labor

III

age

than there is

now

Vn I

b₂

p

sfz

p

Vc

mp

p

I see drifting as the sea, like the wind, blowing about, seemingly without destination. The multitude I alone all have a purpose. For what hath man of all his labor, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun?

Fl.

Tuba

Cel.

(170)

I

Voices II

III

Vn I

Vc

Fl. *bo* *r 3 7* *ff* *#0*
p

Tuba *f* *mf* *ff* *p* *ff* *Tacet*

Cel. *3:2*

(175) (180)

I *f* *What people dread, do not fail to dread.* *But,* *A-*

Voices II *spoken:*
There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after *The sun riseth, and the also sun goeth down,*

III *heaven or hell* *than there is now*

Vn I *f* *mf* *p* *6:5*

Vc *r 3 7* *#0* *bo*

Fl. *f*

Cel. *b₀*

(190)

I *p*

Voices II *f* *b₀* *r 3 7* *r 3 7* *r 3 7* *r 3 7* *Tacet*

III *r 3 7* *r 3 7*

The multitude are merry, as though feasting on a day of sacrifice. I alone am inert showing no sign of desires

The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the ear filled with hearing

Knowing the perfect fitness and equanimity, while they discuss I am silent There was never any

Vn I *p* *f* *b₀* *ff*

Vc *p* *#₀* *#₀* *Pizz* *ff*

195

Fl. *ff* *ff*

Cel. *ff* *ff* *ff*

I
Voices
like an infant that
has not yet smiled
wearyed, indeed I seem

III
more inception than there is now nor any more

Vn I *Arco* *pp* *ff*

Vc *f* *pp*

200

Fl. *ff* *p*

Cel. *ff* *ff*

I
Voices
to be without a home
The multitude all
possess more than
enough

III
youth or age than there is now

Vn I *p* *ff* *Tacet*

Vc *ff* *p*

205

210

Fl. *p*

Cel.

I *bu*

Voices I lone seem to have lost all

III and will never be any more perfection than there is *no* now

Vc. *pp*

215

Fl. *p*

Cel. *f* *ff* *p*

I *gliss* *r 3 7* *Tacet* *Spoken:*

Voices I Mine is indeed the mind of an ignorant man Indiscriminate and dull Common folks are indeed brilliant

III nor any more heaven or hell...

Vc. *Pizz* *Arco*

220

Fl. *p*

Cel.

Voice I
I alone seem to be in the dark. *8:57* *slowly*
I seem drifting as the sea.

Vc. *mp* *p*

225

Fl. *ff* *p*

Cel.

Voice I
like the wind, *f* *p*
blowing about, seemingly without destination
Spoken:
The multitude all have a purpose
I alone seem to be stubborn and rustic

Vc. *p*

230

Fl. *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *p*

Cel.

Voice I
Spoken:
Abandon learning and there will be no sorrow

Vc. *p* *mf*

235

240

Handwritten musical score for measures 235-240. The score includes staves for vocal line (I), electric guitar (el.), and bass (b.).

Vocal Line (I): Lyrics include "What people dread, do not fail to dread.", "But", and "Alas". Dynamics include *pp* and *p*. Performance markings include *mf expr.* and accents.

Electric Guitar (el.): Features a *pp* dynamic and a *Tacet* instruction.

Bass (b.): Includes a 5:6 ratio marking.

245

Handwritten musical score for measures 245-250. The score includes staves for vocal line (I), electric guitar (el.), and bass (b.).

Vocal Line (I): Lyrics include "how confused and the end" and "is not yet". Dynamics include *p* and *pp*. Performance markings include *p 3 r37* and accents.

Electric Guitar (el.): Features a *p* dynamic.

Bass (b.): Includes a *p* dynamic.

Feb. 1980 (This version Sept-Dec 80)
 Chicago, Ill.
 Duration c. 21"