

JUDITH SHATIN

Elijah's Chariot

String Quartet & Electronics



Program Note

Elijah's Chariot was inspired by the Biblical story of the prophet Elijah, who was whirled up to heaven on a chariot of fire drawn by horses of fire. He was a prophet who wrought miracles and many tales exist of his return to earth to help Jews in trouble. It is also Elijah who is supposed to blow the shofar to announce the coming of the Messiah. The folk melody *Eliyahu HaNavi*, often sung during the close of the Sabbath, is woven into *Elijah's Chariot*. The opening phrase of this melody forms a melodic thread in *Elijah's Chariot*, emerging clearly at one point, and obliquely at others.

The scoring for string quartet and electronics reflects the story. The electronics, created from a recording of a shofar (ram's horn), represent God's call to Elijah. The string quartet mediates between this, sometimes imitating the calls, and the story of Elijah on earth. The original recording, by Dr. Mel Siegel of Minneapolis, was of shofar blasts played during the High Holidays. *Elijah's Chariot* was commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and is dedicated to the memory of Adam Francis Harrington. The Kronos Quartet toured it internationally, presenting it throughout Europe, the Middle and Far East, and the US, including the Next Wave Festival at BAM. –JS

World Premiere Kronos Quartet Theatre Artaud San Francisco, CA 5/9/1996

Duration: 19:45

Performance Notes

The electronic playback for *Elijah's Chariot* was designed to create a flexible relationship between the live and electronic parts. It is organized in multiple cued segments that allow fluid pacing. The cues can either be managed by one of the performers using a foot pedal, or by a separate electronics performer. The score gives specific events to listen for, but there was no attempt to notate all of the electronic sounds. The score is also marked with relative dynamic levels for playback in the event that some adjustment is necessary in the performance mix. The string quartet should be amplified in most venues, with the sound lightly mixed with that of the electronics for playback.

Glossary

Square notes in the electronic part indicate approximate pitch. Unfilled notes are longer than filled ones, though exact durations are not given. Vertical arrows above a note indicate pitch $\frac{1}{4}$ tone above or below depending on the direction of the arrow.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cl indicates $\frac{1}{2}$ col legno; play with $\frac{1}{2}$ hair and $\frac{1}{2}$ wood.

A peaked hold indicates a short fermata, while the traditional fermata signifies a longer one.

JUDTH SHATIN

—20

$$-2x$$

==

♩ = 116

5

10

CUE 2

15

20

to pont.

to pont.

to pont.

25

(snap pizz.) arco

ord. f (snap pizz.) arco

ord. f (snap pizz.) arco

ord. f (snap pizz.) arco

CD

30 ♩ = sub. 92

1/2 cl ord. col legno tratto ord.

mp pp p ff

1/2 cl ord. col legno tratto ord.

mp pp p ff

1/2 cl ord. col legno tratto ord.

mp pp p ff

1/2 cl ord. col legno tratto ord.

mp pp p ff

CD

whisper n.v. ppp

35

ord. ff

ord. 6 ord. 3

f < ff

ord. 6 ord. 3

p < ff

ord. 6 ord. 3

pp < ff

A Freely, solos as quasi-cadenzas (solo)

reflective mp mf

p

pp

p

pp

[illegible]

45

p

pp

p

pp

p

pp

p

mf assertive

50

55

poco pont.

ord. #.

p sub.

Challenging
Più mosso

65

♩ = 108

(solo) *mf*

f

poco pont.

p

f

ord.

mp

*mf*³

mp

p

mf

mf

[illegible]

B *Intense*

75

This musical score is for a piece titled 'Intense' (B). It is a four-staff score. The first staff is in treble clef, the second in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score is divided into four measures. The first measure is in 4/4 time, the second in 3/4, the third in 2/4, and the fourth in 3/4. The first measure contains a forte (f) dynamic marking. The second measure contains a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic marking. The third measure contains a piano (p) dynamic marking. The fourth measure contains a forte (f) dynamic marking. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and accidentals. A large 'WATERMARK' is visible across the score.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in a four-staff format. The first staff is the vocal line, and the subsequent three staves are for piano accompaniment. The score is divided into four measures, each with a different time signature: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *f* (forte). The piano part includes a complex rhythmic pattern in the second measure, featuring a series of eighth notes. The vocal line is simple, with the lyrics 'The Rose Tree' written below the notes. The score is marked with a 'PERC' watermark and a page number '80' in a box.

85

mf $\leftarrow$ f

mp $\leftarrow$ f

p $\leftarrow$ f

f

90

pizz. $\leftarrow$ 3

arco tr

pizz. $\leftarrow$ 3

arco tr

pizz. $\leftarrow$ 3

arco tr

pizz. $\leftarrow$ 3

arco tr

95

C

3

5

to pont. ---

ff

ff

ff

ff

CUE 3

CD

p $\leftarrow$ mp $\leftarrow$ sf

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ sf

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ f

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ f

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ f

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ f

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ f

mp $\leftarrow$ mf $\leftarrow$ 3 $\leftarrow$ f

25

Explosive

cresc.
p tremolo, start slowly, build to a frenzy and back

cresc.
p tremolo, start slowly, build to a frenzy and back

cresc.
p tremolo, start slowly, build to a frenzy and back

cresc.
p tremolo, start slowly, build to a frenzy and back

ff *dim.* *p* *ppp*

CD

Repeat Ad lib.
try to match shofar pitches

20

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

CD

18

CD

D Simply ♩ = 92
8^{va} sempre →

100 105

8^{va} →

110

115 echo (8^{va}) →

poco rit. ---
echo
n.v.

120

E A tempo ♩ = 92
with great gentleness
ord.

125 130

135

Accel smoothly
ca. 20"

Wild, fast as possible

Rit. poco a poco

140

5 6.5 14 7

ff

ff

dim.

ff

ff

CUE 4

CD

♩ = 92

pp

pp

pp

pp

F

pp

cresc. poco a poco

sim.

cresc. poco a poco

accél.

145

mp
sim.

cresc. poco a poco

mf

cresc.

6.5 4.5

CD

f *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* (may overlap start of next bar)

5

155

9 3 9.3

CD

mp *mp* *mf* *smooth* *f* *p* *mf* *smooth* *f* *p* *mf* *smooth* *f* *p* *mf*

160

5 2.5 5 2.5

CD

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *gradual rit.* *f* *f*

7 *Expansive* 5.3 8

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

f *p* *mf* *mp*

rit. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

rit. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

CD

4.5 165 7 8.4

p *mp* *p* *mf* *dim.* *pp*

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

mf *dim.* *pp* *mp*

CD

5 10

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

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

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

CD

H $\text{♩} = 84 - 88$

170

Abrupt ₃

CD

Measures 170-174. The score is for a five-staff instrument, likely a piano. It starts in 3/4 time and changes to 4/4 at measure 171. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *mp*. A 'CD' label is on the left.

175

Measures 175-179. The score continues the five-staff piece. It features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*. A large diagonal watermark 'PERFORMANCE' is visible across the score.

180

Measures 180-184. The score continues the five-staff piece. It features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*. A large diagonal watermark 'PERFORMANCE' is visible across the score.

sf p $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

sf p $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

sf p $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

sf p $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

185

1/2 pont. ord. 1/2 pont. ord. 1/2 pont. ord. 1/2 pont. ord.

sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f sf mp $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ f

cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc.

cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc.

cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc.

cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc. $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ ff mp cresc.

190

ff mp cresc. *ff*

ff mp cresc. *ff*

ff mp cresc. *ff*

ff mp cresc. *ff*

echo

echo

echo

echo

195

f *echo*

f *echo*

f *echo*

f *echo*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

200

echo poco accel.

Flowing ♩ = 92

205

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

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

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

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

I 210

215

mf *p* *p* *p*

mf *p* *p* *p*

mf *p* *p* *p*

mf *p* *p* *p*

Responses to the rising Shofar swirls come from the following group. The order is by choice except that all should conclude with the series of rising jeté glissandi. Pitches should be inspired by the electronic sounds. Timbre should range from ord. to sul pont. ad lib. Think of the music as prayers rising.

Play at the frog, forte and feroce; add pizz. LH & RH ad lib; RH should move freely between pizz. and arco notes; swirl through the registers. Dance on the fingerboard.

Bounce across all four strings in a gradually rising motion; vary the articulation, sometimes staccato, sometimes slurred; the timbre can range from ord. to harsh sul pont. Also vary the density of the group of rises.

Gliss. all 4 LH fingers up and down while bowing across all 4 strings, using dbl. stops ad lib., vary the speed of the gliss. and how much fingerboard you cover; spread across the registers and tremolo a piacere.

(Everyone end with this one) Start in low register with jeté gliss. (some doublestop gliss., some on one string); gradually expand the register, increasing intensity and density of the gliss. Intersperse with jeté behind bridge. Gradually move into a higher register; shrink the registral band, while moving even higher; as you move into the last glissandi, use somewhat less jeté, smoother gliss. with slight hold on last pitch; rise into the stratosphere and fade as the Shofar sounds end.

PERUSAL COPY, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

15 15

rising roar

15 20

Rising Jeté gliss. figure: start in this region.

K *Eliahu HaNavi*
Yearning ♩ = 56
Con Sord.

235

240

245

A tempo
Hum tune in comfortable register

250

255

rit. a piacere

Frenzied
Dancing
Senza sord. ♩ = ca. 104

260

sim.

sim.

sim.

cresc.

cresc.

f cresc.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

dim. on repeat

265

mp

sf

mp

sf

f

mp

sf

mp

sf

f

p

sf

mp

sf

f

p

sf

mp

sf

f

First system of a musical score in B-flat major (two flats). It consists of four staves. The first staff (treble clef) has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with a *cresc.* marking. The second staff (treble clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *cresc.* marking. The third staff (bass clef) has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with a *cresc.* marking. The fourth staff (bass clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *cresc.* marking. The system concludes with a double bar line and a *ff* dynamic marking.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 270. It consists of four staves. The first staff (treble clef) has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with a *mp* marking, followed by a *sf* marking. The second staff (treble clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *mp* marking, followed by a *sf* marking. The third staff (bass clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *mp* marking, followed by a *sf* marking. The fourth staff (bass clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *mp* marking, followed by a *sf* marking. The system concludes with a double bar line and a *mf* marking.

Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 275. It consists of four staves. The first staff (treble clef) has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with a *f* marking. The second staff (treble clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *f* marking. The third staff (bass clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *f* marking. The fourth staff (bass clef) has a dotted quarter-note pattern with a *f* marking. The system concludes with a double bar line.

mp cresc. to **ff** through repeat

mp cresc. to **ff** through repeat

mp cresc. to **ff** through repeat

mp cresc. to **ff** through repeat

Urgently $\text{♩} = 112$
accel.

280

sf cresc. **f** **mf** cresc. **f** **mf** cresc.

sf cresc. **f** **mf** cresc. **f** **mf** cresc.

sf cresc. **f** **mf** cresc. **f** **mf** cresc.

sf cresc. **f** **mf** cresc. **f** **mf** cresc.

285 9 $\text{♩} = 88$

ff **p**

ff **p**

ff **p**

ff **p**

CUE 7
(octave echo)

CD

290

mp mf mp mf mp f p

mp mf mp mf mp f p

mp mf mp mf mp f p

mp mf mp mf mp f p

295

mf p mf mf mf mf

mf p mf mf mf mf

mf p mf mf mf mf

mf p mf mf mf mf

CUE 8

300

305

f p f pppp

f p f pppp

f p f pppp

f p f pppp