

Josh Rodriguez

BETWEEN STAR AND STONE

For Orchestra, Narrator, and SATB Chorus

PERUSAL SCORE

Approximate Duration: 6.5 mins

Instrumentation

Flute 1-2 (opt. Piccolo)
Oboe 1-2
Clarinet in Bb 1-2
Bassoon 1-2

Horn in F 1-2 (for 2-4 horns)

Trumpet in Bb 1-3
Trombone 1-2
Bass Trombone or Tenor Trombone 3 (optional)
Tuba

Timpani (3 drums)

Percussion I, Bass Drum, Tam Tam (and optional Glockenspiel)
Percussion II, Snare Drums (snares off), Suspended Cymbal, Triangle

SATB Chorus

Narrator (may be a choir member)

Piano (optional)

Harp (optional)

Violin I (with concertmaster solos)
Violin II
Viola
Cello (with first chair solos)
Double Bass

Performance Notes

Narrator: The narration is written in the bass part of the choir, but this does mean that it can only be narrated by a low voice. Notated rhythms are suggestions with the goal of clarifying where the text should generally be spoken in order for the union with orchestral underscoring to be most effective, but the narrator is free to inflect and pace the delivery. Narration should be presented with a warm engaging sensibility helping the audience empathize with the range of emotions expressed in the text from sadness, confusion, and yearning to surprise, confidence, and awe. The narrator may be amplified if necessary.

Choir: The SATB choir parts have been envisioned as a response to the narrator, and two possibilities have been envisioned for their inclusion in this work:

- 1) Choir may be seated in the back of the hall or in a balcony behind the audience (preferably disguised in "plain clothes") for a surprise appearance toward the end (m. 81).
- 2) If this work is used in a context where a "surprise" choir is not desired, choir may be on stage and can begin singing the vocalise parts (mm. 42-59) to heighten the narration. Breathing should be staggered to achieve smooth steady build throughout.

Piano & Harp: This piece is only dependent on one or the other for wholeness. The inclusion of both is simply to provide extra timbrel development throughout should they be available to the ensemble.

Percussion: Regarding the snare drum (without snares), the effect in the introduction should be a loud high register with some body to double the bass drum and timpani. Tenor drum may also be used, and if an extra percussionist is available, this part can be doubled on various instruments.

Double Bass: Instruments with a C extension are preferred, but in their absense, these parts may be played 8va (marked by the cue sized notes).

"Emmaus" by Debbie Pullinger

(Narrator)

The slow walk home measured out the grief
In strides; lining the path with words that cried
For hope once found and pinned, then dashed to bits
That did not fit. And then, the gentle step beside.

Recovering old ground; things marked before,
Part-seen, now figured in the dusk.
Feet entrained ahead of hearts' accord.
At threshold's pause, the call: 'Abide with us!'

Inside, lamps lit and tables set. Embraced,
It's we who sit as guests. Raised bread
Lifts our gaze – the hands held out, the face
A flash. So springs momentarily the fountainhead.

(Chorus)

Through night we go between star and stone.
Under stone the coursing river flows.

Used with author's permission, January 23, 2025

Program Note

Written for Dr. Jeremy Begbie and the Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA) 2025 conference at Duke University, BETWEEN STAR AND STONE, reflects on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) in which two grieving and fearful disciples discuss Christ's crucifixion and eventually meet a stranger who reveals himself as the risen Christ. After a terrifying introduction depicting the horrors of the disciples' memories of the cross, mournful melodies unfurl over a slow descending bassline over which a narrator recalls that transformative journey. Underneath this sonnet by British poet Debbie Pullinger, a musical conversation unfolds between a trio of soloists (violin, cello, and clarinet) building toward the revelation of Christ breaking bread at supper. The realization itself is terrifying. Even as Christ's bodily presence is made clear, the disciples lose him again in a second disappearance. As this clamorous climax subsides, voices articulate the conclusion of Pullinger's poem – "Through night we go between star and stone. Under stone the coursing river flows." – highlighting the journey which Christian disciples have travelled since Christ's resurrection.

(Extended Program Note)

For the musically inquisitive, BETWEEN STAR AND STONE takes its general form from the passacaglia, an early 17th century form originating in Spain and Italy, in which musical variations unfold over a recurring bassline. Bach brilliantly uses this form to depict Christ's torturous road toward the cross in the "Crucifixus" of the B Minor Mass, a work ending in G major foreshadowing the glorious resurrection to come after the gory devastation. BETWEEN STAR AND STONE uses this same form to imagine another road, one moving from Calvary and the disorienting empty tomb to the present. It is this path on which people find themselves wrestling with the seismic significance of Christ's life, death and resurrection over two thousand years later. This work instrumentally quotes three other musical works: 1) the painful melody from the "Crucifixus" in Bach's B Minor Mass (mm. 17 & 24-5, heard in the solo violin and cello), 2) the Phrygian ascending line "Father, forgive them" from James MacMillan's Seven Last Words From the Cross (mm. 50-4, heard in the clarinet & first violins), and 3) the chorus from Switchfoot's song On Fire (mm. 70-4, in the tbns & strings). The first quote is from one of the greatest explorations of the cross in Western music, the second a nod to a colleague and important contributor to conversations about music and theology, and the latter is a pop song which I heard as a college student and found deeply moving in its implications about the voice of the Holy Spirit cutting through the anxious inner clamor of our hearts and outer noise of our culture bringing peace and wonder. Metrically, this music shifts at the halfway point from the 4/4 walking pulse to a subdued 3/4, associated with the waltz, as the mourning of the disciples is transformed into dancing (Psalm 30:11). It can also be noted that C# is associated with Christ, first appearing in the introductory "memories" of the crucifixion, later appearing in the clarinet, and incorporated into the rest of the orchestra in the work's epic conclusion. The crucifixion is associated with the opening symmetrical descending motive, D - C# - Bb - A (a symmetry found in D minor) and a chiastic moment in the percussion (mm. 4-6). This four-pitch motive is modified into the less strident variation, D - C - B - A (reminiscent of D dorian) for the passacaglia as the disciples discuss the most recent events in Jerusalem and concludes with Christ's revelation and the arrival of D major with its historical associations of royalty and exaltation (ex. Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah), a harmonic journey from darkness to light.

Approximate Duration: 6.5 mins

BETWEEN STAR AND STONE

Debbie Pullinger

Josh Rodriguez

A Lonely, introspective ♩ = 60

[illegible]

15

[illegible]

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2

Tpt in Bb 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

Tam.

Tri.

S.

A.

T.

NARRATOR

B.

The slow walk home mea - sured out the grief In strides; li - ning the path with words that cried For hope once found and pinned, then dashed to bits That

Notated rhythms are suggestions; narrator is free to inflect however he/she chooses.

Pno

8ba...

Hp

Solo

Vln I

gli altri

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

21

BETWEEN STAR AND STONE

[illegible]

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2

Tpt in Bb 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

Tam.

Tri.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

Solo Vln I

gli altri

Vln II

Vla

Solo Vc.

gli altri

D. B.

31

32

33

34

35

[illegible]

[illegible]

Fl. 1

Picc.

p

Ob. 1

p

Ob. 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

p

Cl. in B♭ 2

p

Bsn 1

mp

Bsn 2

mp

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2

Tpt in B♭ 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

p

mf

p

Tam.

Tri.

mf

l.v.

p

S.

p

mf

p

A.

p

mf

p

T.

p

mf

p

B.

Pno

Hp

Vln I

p

mf

p

mf

unis.

Vln II

p

mf

p

mf

unis.

Vla

p

Vc.

p

D. B.

p

mf

46

47

48

49

50

G

CENTER OF WORK

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2

Tpt in B♭ 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

Tam.

Tri.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

51

52

53

54

55

[illegible]

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2

Tpt in Bb 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Tim.

Tam.

Sus. Cym.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

61

62

63

64

65

J

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

L Mysterious, awesome ♩ = 60

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2

Tpt in B♭ 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

Glock.

Sus. Cym.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Through night Through

(narrator may exit)

8^{va}

81

82

83

84

85

M

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2

Tpt in Bb 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

Glock.

Sus. Cym.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

night.

we

go

be - - - tween

86

N

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2

Tpt in B♭ 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

Glock.

Sus. Cym.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

star and stone Un - - - - der stone the cour - - - - sing

star and stone Un - - - - der stone the cour - - - - sing

star and stone Un - - - - der stone the cour - - - - sing

star and stone Un - - - - der stone the cour - - - - sing

91 92 93 94 95

O

8^{va}

p ————— *f*

p ————— *f*

f

magnificent, legato

p ————— *f*

p ————— *f*

E♭
C# Bb

96 97 98 99 100

magnificent, legato

magnificent, legato

 f

magnificent, legato

magnificent, legato

Glock.

mf

1.v.
✓

legato

¹ (non div.)

non div.

non div.

p —

The image shows a page of a musical score, likely for a symphony or opera. The score is written for a large ensemble of instruments and voices. The instruments listed on the left include Fl. 1, Picc., Ob. 1, Ob. 2, Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn 1, Bsn 2, F. Hn in F 1, F. Hn in F 2, Tpt in Bb 1, Tpt in Bb 2, Tpt in Bb 3, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, B. Tbn., Tba, Timp., Glock., Sus. Cym., S., A., T., B., Pno., Hp., Vln I, Vln II, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The score is divided into measures, with dynamic markings such as *p*, *f*, *mf*, and *cresc.* indicating the volume. The section labeled 'Q' is marked with a 'Q' in a box. The section labeled 'magnificent' is marked with 'magnificent' and 'mf'. The vocal parts (S., A., T., B.) have lyrics: 'Through night we go be -'. The piano part (Pno.) has a dynamic marking of *f*. The harp part (Hp.) has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The violin parts (Vln I, Vln II) have dynamic markings of *p* and *f*. The viola part (Vla.) has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The cello part (Vc.) has a dynamic marking of *p*. The double bass part (D. B.) has a dynamic marking of *p*. The score is written in a standard musical notation with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The page number 105 is visible at the bottom left.

R

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2

Tpt in B♭ 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

B. Dr.

Glock.

Sus. Cym.

S.

we go be - tween star and stone

A.

- tween star and stone

T.

- tween star and stone

B.

- tween star and stone

Pno

Hp

Vln I

1

Vln II

2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

A - G - D

opt. (bass dr.)

Without pedal

8^{va}

unis.

unis.

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2

Tpt in B♭ 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba

Timp.

B. Dr.

Glock.

Sus. Cym.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Hp

1

2

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

BETWEEN STAR AND STONE[illegible]