

For the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble

VoxN

To be played to the short story
The Voice in the Night
by William Hope Hodgson

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

I. \downarrow 120

Violin I

Clarinet in B \flat

Cello I

Piano I

Speaker

7

Vln. I

B \flat Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

12

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

17

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

23

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

30

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

II. *The rhythms in this and similar sections are intended to be played accurately, if possible. However, approximations are acceptable so long as they do not sound like deliberate attempts to stay inside a foursquare rhythmic framework—in other words, this is a modified written alatory.*

39 *pp* *con sord.*

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

¶ It was a dark, starless night. We were becalmed in the Northern Pacific. Our exact position I do not know; for the sun had been hidden during the course of a weary, breathless week, by a thin haze which had seemed to float above us, about the height of our mastheads, at whiles descending and shrouding the surrounding sea. ¶ With there being no wind, we had steadied the tiller, and I was the only man on deck. The crew, consisting of two men and a boy, were sleeping forrard in their den; while Will—my friend, and the master of our little craft—was aft in his bunk on the port side of the little cabin.

57

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

¶ Suddenly, from out of the surrounding darkness, there came a hail: ¶ “Schooner, ahoy!” ¶ The cry was so unexpected that I gave no immediate answer, because of my surprise. ¶ It came again—a voice curiously throaty and inhuman, calling from somewhere upon the dark sea away on our port broadside: ¶ “Schooner, ahoy!” ¶ “Hullo!” I sung out, having gathered my wits somewhat. “What are you? What do you want?” ¶ “You need not be afraid,” answered the queer voice, having probably noticed some trace of confusion in my tone. “I am only an old man.”

Musical score for measures 72-85. The score includes parts for Violin I, Bassoon, Violoncello, and Piano I. The music is characterized by long, flowing lines with various ornaments and slurs. Measure numbers 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, and 85 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

¶ The pause sounded oddly; but it was only afterwards that it came back to me with any significance. ¶ “Why don’t you come alongside, then?” I queried somewhat snappishly; for I liked not his hinting at my having been a trifle shaken. ¶ “I—I—can’t. It wouldn’t be safe. I—” The voice broke off, and there was silence. ¶ “What do you mean?” I asked, growing more and more astonished. “Why not safe? Where are you?” ¶ I listened for a moment; but there came no answer. And then, a sudden indefinite suspicion, of I knew not what, coming to me, I stepped swiftly to the binnacle, and took out the lighted lamp. At the same time,

Musical score for measures 86-97. The score includes parts for Violin I, Bassoon, Violoncello, and Piano I. The music continues with similar flowing lines and ornaments. Measure numbers 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, and 97 are indicated. The section concludes with a double bar line and the Roman numeral III. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *senza sord.*

I knocked on the deck with my heel to waken Will. Then I was back at the side, throwing the yellow funnel of light out into the silent immensity beyond our rail. As I did so, I heard a slight, muffled cry, and then the sound of a splash as though someone had dipped oars abruptly. Yet I cannot say that I saw anything with certainty; save, it seemed to me, that with the first flash of the light, there had been something upon the waters, where now there was nothing. ¶ “Hullo, there!” I called. “What foolery is this!” ¶ But there came only the indistinct sounds of a boat being pulled away into the night.

Musical score for measures 98-107. The score includes parts for Violin I, Bassoon, Violoncello, and Piano I. The music continues with similar flowing lines and ornaments. Measure numbers 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, and 107 are indicated. The section begins with the dynamic marking *senza sord.* and ends with a double bar line.

¶ Then I heard Will’s voice, from the direction of the after scuttle: ¶ “What’s up, George?” ¶ “Come here, Will!” I said. ¶ “What is it?” he asked, coming across the deck. ¶ I told him the queer thing which had happened. He put several questions; then, after a moment’s silence, he raised his hands to his lips, and hailed: ¶ “Boat, ahoy!”

107

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

115

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

p

p

p

¶ From a long distance away there came back to us a faint reply, and my companion repeated his call. Presently, after a short period of silence, there grew on our hearing the muffled sound of oars; at which Will hailed again.

126

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

mp

mp

mp

mp

134

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

IV

ppp

Change to Bb Clarinet

ppp

ppp

¶ This time there was a reply: ¶ “Put away the light.” ¶ “I’m damned if I will,” I muttered; but Will told me to do as the voice bade,

144

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ and I shoved it down under the bulwarks. ¶ “Come nearer,” he said, and the oar-strokes continued. Then, when apparently some half-dozen fathoms distant, they again ceased. ¶ “Come alongside,” exclaimed Will.

152

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

p

p

p

¶ “There’s nothing to be frightened of aboard here!” ¶ “Promise that you will not show the light?” ¶ “What’s to do with you,” I burst out, “that you’re so infernally afraid of the light?”

157

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ “Because “ began the voice, and stopped short. ¶ “Because what?” I asked quickly. ¶ Will put his hand on my shoulder. ¶ “Shut up a minute, old man,” he said, in a low voice. “Let me tackle him.” ¶ He leant more

161

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

over the rail. ¶ “See here, Mister,” he said, “this is a pretty queer business, you coming upon us like this, right out in the middle of the blessed Pacific. How are we to know what sort of a hanky-panky trick you’re

165

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

up to? You say there’s only one of you. How are we to know, unless we get a squint at you—eh? What’s your objection to the light, anyway?” ¶ As he finished, I heard the noise of the oars again, and then the voice

169

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

came; but now from a greater distance, and sounding extremely hopeless and pathetic. ¶ “I am sorry—sorry! I would not have troubled you, only I am hungry, and—so is she.” ¶ The voice died away, and the sound

173

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

mp

mp

mp

of the oars, dipping irregularly, was borne to us.

177

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

182

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ “Stop!” sung out Will. “I don’t want to drive you away. Come back! We’ll keep the light hidden, if you don’t like it.” ¶ He turned to me: ¶ “It’s a damned queer rig, this; but I think there’s nothing to be afraid of?”

187

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ There was a question in his tone, and I replied. ¶ “No, I think the poor devil’s been wrecked around here, and gone crazy.” ¶ The sound of the oars drew nearer. ¶ “Shove that lamp back in the binnacle,” said Will;

191

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk then he leaned over the rail and listened. I replaced the lamp, and came back to his side. The dipping of the oars ceased some dozen yards distant. ¶ “Won’t you come alongside now?” asked Will in an even voice.

195

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

“I have had the lamp put back in the binnacle.” ¶ “I—I cannot,” replied the voice. “I dare not come nearer. I dare not even pay you for the—the provisions.” ¶ “That’s all right,” said Will, and hesitated. “You’re welcome

199

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

to as much grub as you can take—” Again he hesitated. ¶ “You are very good,” exclaimed the voice. “May God, Who understands everything, reward you—” It broke off huskily. ¶ “The—the lady?” said Will abruptly.

V.

204

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

“Is she—” ¶ “I have left her behind upon the island,” came the voice. ¶ “What island?” I cut in. ¶ “I know not its name,” returned the voice. “I would to God—!” it began, and checked itself as suddenly.

con sord.
ppp

ppp

ppp

Pedal should be held down through this section. Small notes indicate fading of verticalities that should continue to be heard. The note may be gentle re-struck if it has faded completely.

216

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

con sord.
ppp

¶ “Could we not send a boat for her?” asked Will at this point. ¶ “No!” said the voice, with extraordinary emphasis. “My God! No!” There was a moment’s pause; then it added, in a tone which seemed a merited reproach:

230

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ “It was because of our want I ventured—because her agony tortured me.” ¶ “I am a forgetful brute,” exclaimed Will. “Just wait a minute, whoever you are, and I will bring you up something at once.” ¶ In a couple

243

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

of minutes he was back again, and his arms were full of various edibles. He paused at the rail. ¶ “Can’t you come alongside for them?” he asked. ¶ “No—*I dare not,*” replied the voice, and it seemed to me that in its

254

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

pizz *senza sord.*

tongue slap *tongue slap* *tongue slap*

pizz *senza sord.* *pizz*

tones I detected a note of stifled craving—as though the owner hushed a mortal desire. It came to me then in a flash, that the poor old creature out there in the darkness, was *suffering* for actual need of that which

264

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

arco

tongue slap *tongue slap* *tongue slap*

Will held in his arms; and yet, because of some unintelligible dread, refraining from dashing to the side of our little schooner, and receiving it. And with the lightning-like conviction, there came the knowledge that

274

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

pizz *tongue slap*

pizz

the Invisible was not mad; but sanely facing some intolerable horror. ¶ “Damn it, Will!” I said, full of many feelings, over which predominated a vast sympathy. “Get a box. We must float off the stuff to him in it.”

284

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ This we did—propelling it away from the vessel, out into the darkness, by means of a boathook. In a minute, a slight cry from the Invisible came to us, and we knew that he had secured the box. ¶ A little later, he

293

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ called out a farewell to us, and so heartfelt a blessing, that I am sure we were the better for it. Then, without more ado, we heard the ply of oars across the darkness.

300

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ “Pretty soon off,” remarked Will, with perhaps just a little sense of injury. ¶ “Wait,” I replied. “I think somehow he’ll come back.

(pizz.)

tongue slap

(pizz.)

305

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

tongue slap

He must have been badly needing that food.” ¶ “And the lady,” said Will. For a moment he was silent; then he continued: ¶ “It’s the queerest thing ever I’ve tumbled across, since I’ve been fishing.” ¶ “Yes,” I said,

310

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

p

and fell to pondering. ¶ And so the time slipped away—an hour, another, and still Will stayed with me; for the queer adventure had knocked all desire for sleep out of him.

316

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

320

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

324

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

mf

mf

mf

329

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

continue arpeggiation as needed

may also be played as clusters

333

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

337

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

VI.

342

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

arco tasto
ppp
arco tasto
ppp

¶ The third hour was three parts through, when we heard again the sound of oars across the silent ocean. ¶ “Listen!” said Will, a low note of excitement in his voice. ¶ “He’s coming, just as I thought,” I muttered.

352

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ The dipping of the oars grew nearer, and I noted that the strokes were firmer and longer. The food had been needed. ¶ They came to a stop a little distance off the broadside, and the queer voice came again to us

359

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

through the darkness: ¶ “Schooner, ahoy!” ¶ “That you?” asked Will. ¶ “Yes,” replied the voice. “I left you suddenly; but—but there was great need.” ¶ “The lady?” questioned Will. ¶ “The—lady is grateful now

369

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

on earth. She will be more grateful soon in—in heaven.” ¶ Will began to make some reply, in a puzzled voice; but became confused, and broke off short. I said nothing. I was wondering at the curious pauses, and,

381 *arco normale*

apart from my wonder, I was full of a great sympathy. ¶ The voice continued: ¶ “We—she and I, have talked, as we shared the result of God’s tenderness and yours—” ¶ Will interposed; but without coherence.

¶ “I beg of you not to—to belittle your deed of Christian charity this night,” said the voice. “Be sure that it has not escaped His notice.”

396

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ It stopped, and there was a full minute's silence. Then it came again: ¶ "We have spoken together upon

400

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk that which—which has befallen us. We had thought to go out, without telling any, of the terror which has come into our—lives. She is with me in believing that to-night's happenings are under a special ruling, and

405

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk that it is God's wish that we should tell to you all that we have suffered since—since—' ¶ "Yes?" said Will softly. ¶ "Since the sinking of the Albatross."

409

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

413

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

VII.

p

Change to Bass Clarinet

p

p

419

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

424

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

429

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

433

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

437

Vln. I
Bc. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

This system contains measures 437 through 440. The Vln. I part features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Bc. Cl. part has a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes. The Vc. I part plays a series of eighth notes. The Pno. I part has a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The Spk part is silent.

441

Vln. I
Bc. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

This system contains measures 441 through 444. The Vln. I part continues with a melodic line. The Bc. Cl. part maintains its complex rhythmic pattern. The Vc. I part continues with eighth notes. The Pno. I part continues with eighth notes. The Spk part is silent.

445

Vln. I
Bc. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

This system contains measures 445 through 448. The Vln. I part continues with a melodic line. The Bc. Cl. part continues with its complex rhythmic pattern. The Vc. I part continues with eighth notes. The Pno. I part continues with eighth notes. The Spk part is silent.

449

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

This system contains measures 449 to 451. The Violin I part features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. The Bass Clarinet part has a dense, rhythmic texture with many accidentals. The Violin I part has a more melodic line with slurs. The Piano I part has a complex texture with many accidentals and slurs. The Spk part is mostly silent.

452

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

This system contains measures 452 to 454. The Violin I part has a complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. The Bass Clarinet part has a dense, rhythmic texture with many accidentals. The Violin I part has a more melodic line with slurs. The Piano I part has a complex texture with many accidentals and slurs. The Spk part is mostly silent.

457

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

This system contains measures 457 to 460. The Violin I part has a complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. The Bass Clarinet part has a dense, rhythmic texture with many accidentals. The Violin I part has a more melodic line with slurs. The Piano I part has a complex texture with many accidentals and slurs. The Spk part is mostly silent.

462

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

467

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

477

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ "Ah!" I exclaimed involuntarily. "She left Newcastle for 'Frisko some six months ago, and hasn't been heard of since." ¶ "Yes,"

VIII *sul pont.*

Vln. I
 B. Cl. *Change to Bb Clarinet*
 Vc. I
 Pno. I
mp
mp
mp
extremely light — hardly sounding

answered the voice. "But some few degrees to the North of the line she was caught in a terrible storm, and dismasted. When the day came, it was found that she was leaking badly, and, presently, it falling to a calm,

Vln. I *extremely light — hardly sounding*
 B. Cl. *very hard — hardly sounding, mostly fingers*
 Vc. I
 Pno. I *almost no sound — hardly getting the keys all the way down*
mp
mp
mp
mp

the sailors took to the boats, leaving—leaving a young lady—my fiancée—and myself upon the wreck. ¶ "We were below, gathering together a few of our belongings, when they left. They were entirely callous,

Vln. I
 B. Cl.
 Vc. I
 Pno. I
mp
mp
mp
mp

through fear, and when we came up upon the deck, we saw them only as small shapes afar off upon the horizon. Yet we did not despair, but set to work and constructed a small raft. Upon this we put such few matters

505
Vln. I
505
B. Cl.
505
Vc. I
505
Pno. I
Spk

as it would hold including a quantity of water and some ship's biscuit. Then, the vessel being very deep in the water, we got ourselves on to the raft, and pushed off. ¶ "It was later, when I observed that we seemed

507
Vln. I
507
B. Cl.
507
Vc. I
507
Pno. I
Spk

to be in the way of some tide or current, which bore us from the ship at an angle; so that in the course of three hours, by my watch, her hull became invisible to our sight, her broken masts remaining in view for a

509
Vln. I
509
B. Cl.
509
Vc. I
509
Pno. I
Spk

somewhat longer period. Then, towards evening, it grew misty, and so through the night. The next day we were still encompassed by the mist, the weather remaining quiet.

511

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ "For four days we drifted through this strange haze, until, on the evening of the fourth day, there grew upon our ears the murmur of breakers at a distance. Gradually it became plainer, and, somewhat after midnight,

515

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ it appeared to sound upon either hand at no very great space. The raft was raised upon a swell several times, and then we were in smooth water, and the noise of the breakers was behind. ¶ "When the morning came,

519

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

we found that we were in a sort of great lagoon; but of this we noticed little at the time; for close before us, through the enshrouding mist, loomed the hull of a large sailing-vessel. With one accord, we fell upon our

521

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

knees and thanked God; for we thought that here was an end to our perils. We had much to learn. ¶ “The raft drew near to the ship, and we shouted on them to take us aboard; but none answered. Presently the raft

527

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

touched against the side of the vessel, and, seeing a rope hanging downwards, I seized it and began to climb. Yet I had much ado to make my way up, because of a kind of grey, lichenous fungus which had seized

534

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

upon the rope, and which blotched the side of the ship lividly. ¶ “I reached the rail and clambered over it, on to the deck. Here I saw that the decks were covered, in great patches, with grey masses, some of them

IX.



Vln. I

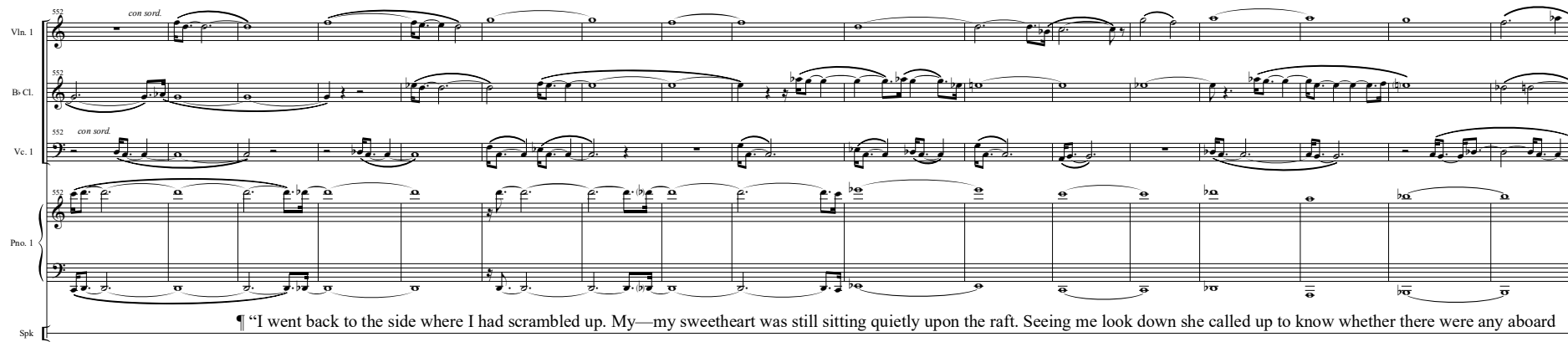
B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

rising into nodules several feet in height; but at the time I thought less of this matter than of the possibility of there being people aboard the ship. I shouted; but none answered. Then I went to the door below the poop deck. I opened it, and peered in. There was a great smell of staleness, so that I knew in a moment that nothing living was within, and with the knowledge, I shut the door quickly; for I felt suddenly lonely.



Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

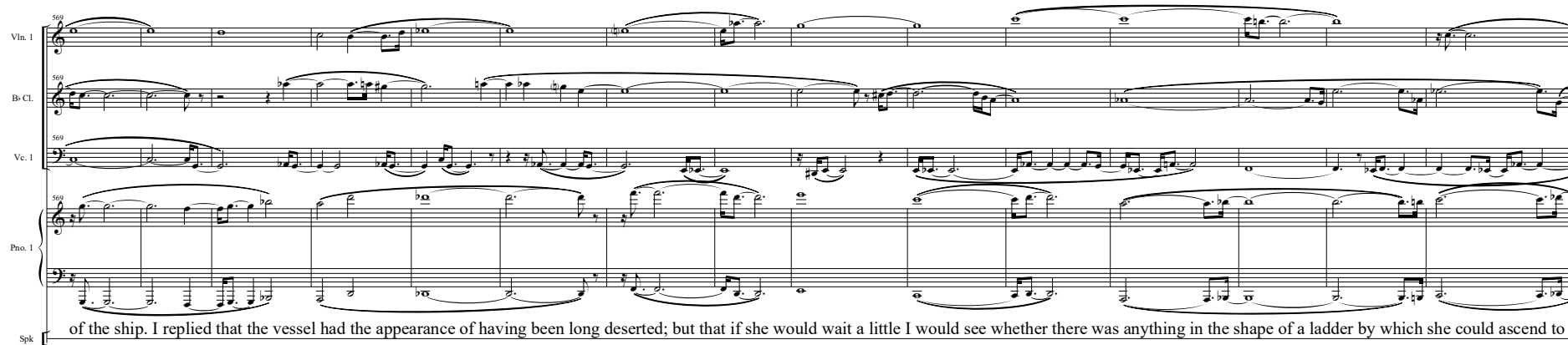
Pno. I

Spk

con sord.

con sord.

"I went back to the side where I had scrambled up. My—my sweetheart was still sitting quietly upon the raft. Seeing me look down she called up to know whether there were any aboard



Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

con sord.

of the ship. I replied that the vessel had the appearance of having been long deserted; but that if she would wait a little I would see whether there was anything in the shape of a ladder by which she could ascend to

584

Vln. I

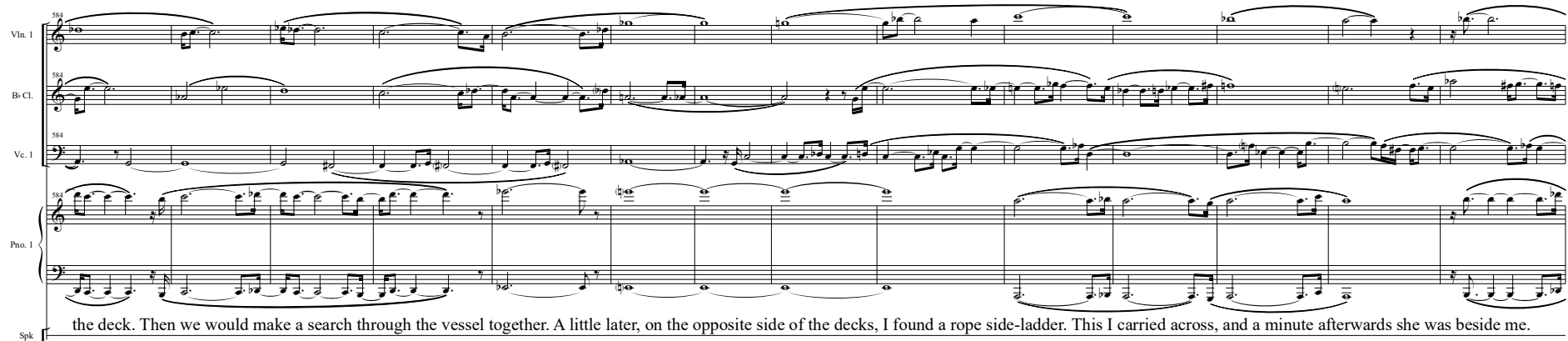
Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

the deck. Then we would make a search through the vessel together. A little later, on the opposite side of the decks, I found a rope side-ladder. This I carried across, and a minute afterwards she was beside me.



598

Vln. I

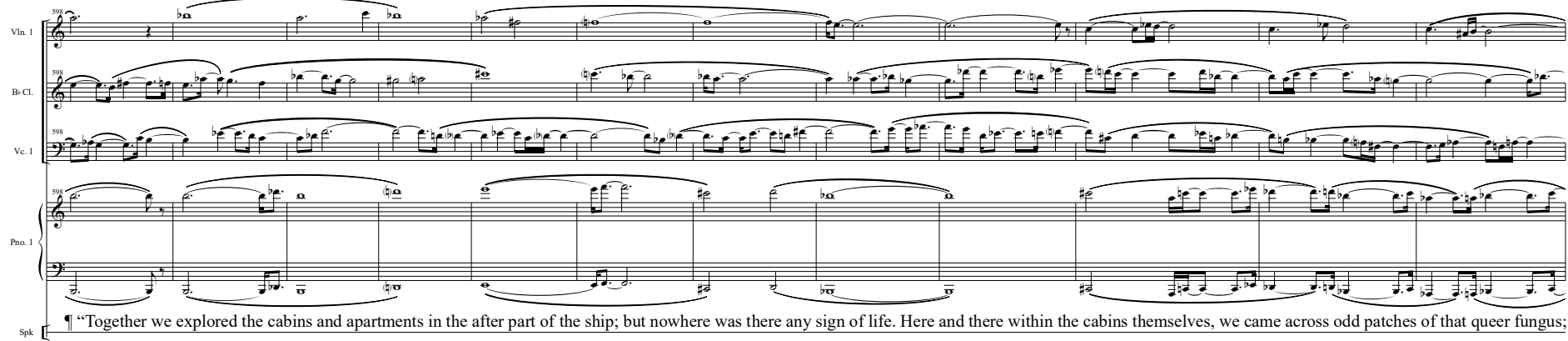
Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ "Together we explored the cabins and apartments in the after part of the ship; but nowhere was there any sign of life. Here and there within the cabins themselves, we came across odd patches of that queer fungus;



610

Vln. I

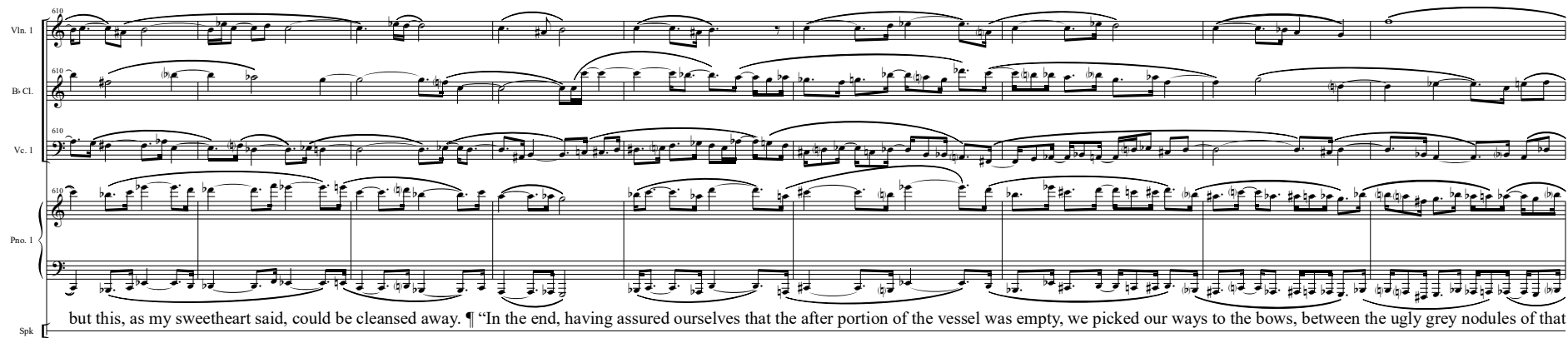
Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

but this, as my sweetheart said, could be cleansed away. ¶ "In the end, having assured ourselves that the after portion of the vessel was empty, we picked our ways to the bows, between the ugly grey nodules of that



619

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

strange growth; and here we made a further search which told us that there was indeed none aboard but ourselves.

632

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

647

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

8^{mo}

664

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

677

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

X.

loco

¶ "This being now beyond any doubt, we returned to the stern of the ship and proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable

691

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

697

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

as possible. Together we cleared out and cleaned two of the cabins: and after that I made examination whether there was anything eatable in the ship. This I soon found was so, and thanked God in my heart for

703

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

His goodness. In addition to this I discovered the whereabouts of the fresh-water pump, and having fixed it I found the water drinkable, though somewhat unpleasant to the taste. ¶ "For several days we stayed

710

Vln. I

Bs. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

aboard the ship, without attempting to get to the shore. We were busily engaged in making the place habitable. Yet even thus early we became aware that our lot was even less to be desired than might have been

718

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

imagined; for though, as a first step, we scraped away the odd patches of growth that studded the floors and walls of the cabins and saloon, yet they returned almost to their original size within the space of

726

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

twenty-four hours, which not only discouraged us, but gave us a feeling of vague unease. ¶ “Still we would not admit ourselves beaten, so set to work afresh, and not only scraped away the fungus, but soaked

734

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

the places where it had been, with carbolic, a can-full of which I had found in the pantry. Yet, by the end of the week the growth had returned in full strength, and, in addition, it had spread to other places, as

743

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

though our touching it had allowed germs from it to travel elsewhere.

755

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ “On the seventh morning, my sweetheart woke to find a small patch of it growing on her pillow, close to her face. At that, she came to me, so soon as she could get her garments upon her. I was in the galley at the time lighting the fire for breakfast. ¶ “Come here, John,” she said, and led me aft. When I saw the thing upon her pillow I shuddered, and then and there we agreed to go right out of the ship and see whether we could

768

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

not fare to make ourselves more comfortable ashore. ¶ “Hurriedly we gathered together our few belongings, and even among these I found that the fungus had been at work; for one of her shawls had a little lump of it growing near one edge. I threw the whole thing over the side, without saying anything to her. ¶ “The raft was still alongside, but it was too clumsy to guide, and I lowered down a small boat that hung across the stern,

782

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

and in this we made our way to the shore. Yet, as we drew near to it, I became gradually aware that here the vile fungus, which had driven us from the ship, was growing riot. In places it rose into horrible, fantastic mounds, which seemed almost to quiver, as with a quiet life, when the wind blew across them. Here and there it took on the forms of vast fingers, and in others it just spread out flat and smooth and treacherous. Odd

795

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

places, it appeared as grotesque stunted trees, seeming extraordinarily kinked and gnarled—the whole quaking vilyly at times. ¶ “At first, it seemed to us that there was no single portion of the surrounding shore which was not hidden beneath the masses of the hideous lichen; yet, in this, I found we were mistaken; for somewhat later, coasting along the shore at a little distance, we descried a smooth white patch of what appeared to

808

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

be fine sand, and there we landed. It was not sand. What it was I do not know. All that I have observed is that upon it the fungus will not grow; while everywhere else, save where the sand-like earth wanders oddly, path-wise, amid the grey desolation of the lichen, there is nothing but that loathsome greyness.

XI. *arco normale*

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

¶ "It is difficult to make you understand how cheered we were to find one place that was absolutely free from the growth, and here we deposited our belongings. Then we went back

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

to the ship for such things as it seemed to us we should need. Among other matters, I managed to bring ashore with me one of the ship's sails, with which I constructed two small tents, which, though exceedingly rough-shaped, served the purpose for which they were intended. In these we lived and stored our various necessities, and thus for a matter of some four weeks all went smoothly and without particular unhappiness.

Vln. I
B. Cl.
Vc. I
Pno. I
Spk

Indeed, I may say with much of happiness—for—for we were together.

841

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

845

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

849

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

851
Vln. I
851
B. Cl.
851
Vc. I
851
Pno. I
Spk

857
Vln. I
857
B. Cl.
857
Vc. I
857
Pno. I
Spk

860
Vln. I
861
B. Cl.
861
Vc. I
861
Pno. I
Spk

864
Vln. I
865
B. Cl.
865
Vc. I
865
Pno. I
Spk

869
Vln. I
869
B. Cl.
869
Vc. I
869
Pno. I
Spk

874
Vln. I
873
B. Cl.
873
Vc. I
873
Pno. I
Spk

877

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

883

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

889

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

894
Vln. I
896
Bc. Cl.
896
Vc. I
896
Pno. I
Spk

900
Vln. I
903
Bc. Cl.
903
Vc. I
903
Pno. I
Spk

900
Vln. I
909
Bc. Cl.
909
Vc. I
909
Pno. I
Spk

XII.

Vln. I
 Br. Cl.
 Vc. I *arco normale*
 Pno. I
 Spk

¶ "It was on the thumb of her right hand that the growth first showed. It was only a small circular spot, much like a little grey mole. My God! how the fear leapt to my heart

Vln. I
 Br. Cl.
 Vc. I
 Pno. I
 Spk

when she showed me the place. We cleansed it, between us, washing it with carbolic and water. In the morning of the following day she showed her hand to me again. The grey warty thing had returned. For a little

Vln. I
 Br. Cl.
 Vc. I
 Pno. I
 Spk

while, we looked at one another in silence. Then, still wordless, we started again to remove it. In the midst of the operation she spoke suddenly. ¶ "What's that on the side of your face, dear?" Her voice was sharp

951

with anxiety. I put my hand up to feel. ¶ ““There! Under the hair by your ear. A little to the front a bit.’ My finger rested upon the place, and then I knew.

954

¶ ““Let us get your thumb done first,’ I said. And she submitted, only because she was afraid to touch me until it was cleansed. I finished washing and disinfecting her thumb, and then she turned to my face. After it was finished we sat together and talked awhile of many things for there had come into our lives sudden, very terrible thoughts. We were, all at once, afraid of something worse than death. We spoke of loading the

XIII.

965

boat with provisions and water and making our way out on to the sea; yet we were helpless, for many causes, and— and the growth had attacked us already. We decided to stay. God would do with us what was His will. We would wait.

976

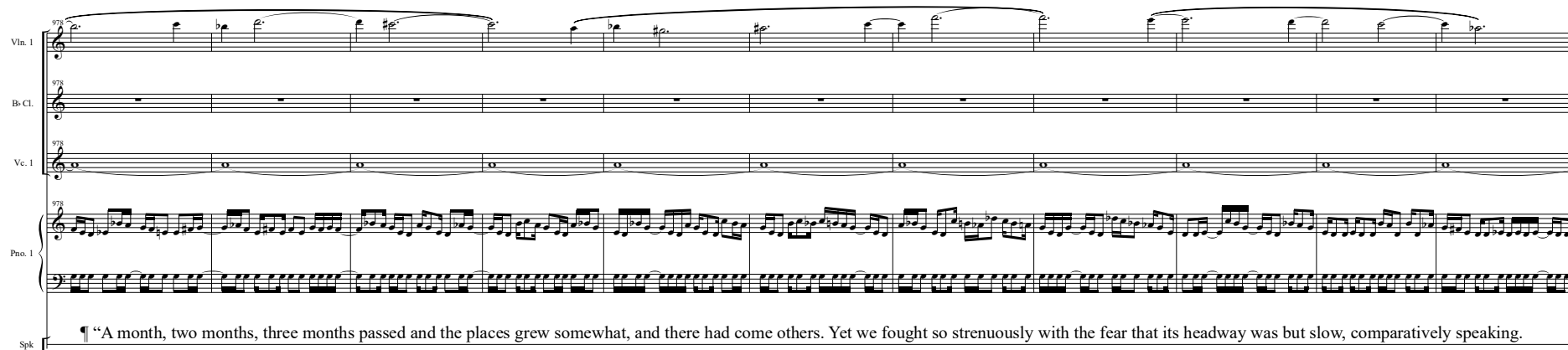
Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ "A month, two months, three months passed and the places grew somewhat, and there had come others. Yet we fought so strenuously with the fear that its headway was but slow, comparatively speaking.



982

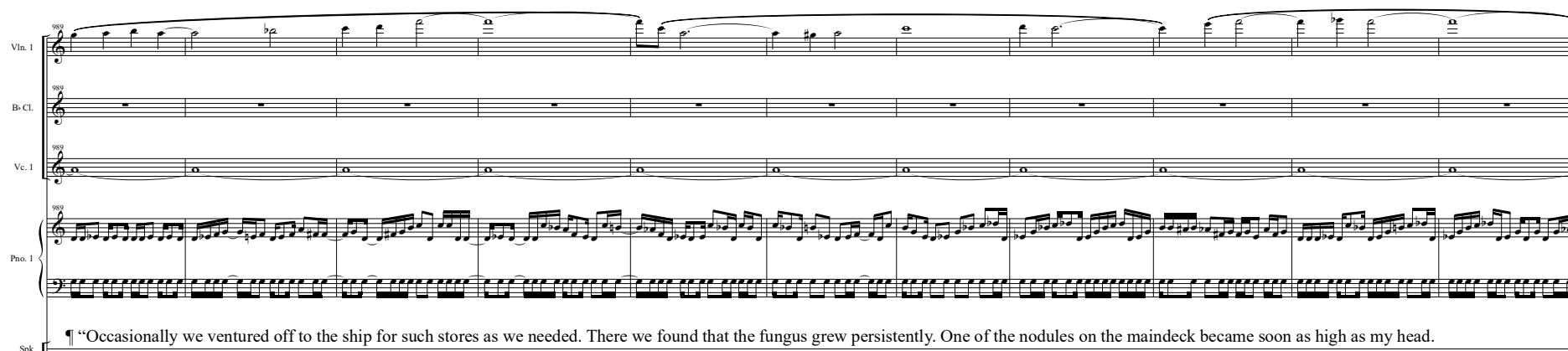
Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ "Occasionally we ventured off to the ship for such stores as we needed. There we found that the fungus grew persistently. One of the nodules on the maindeck became soon as high as my head.



1000

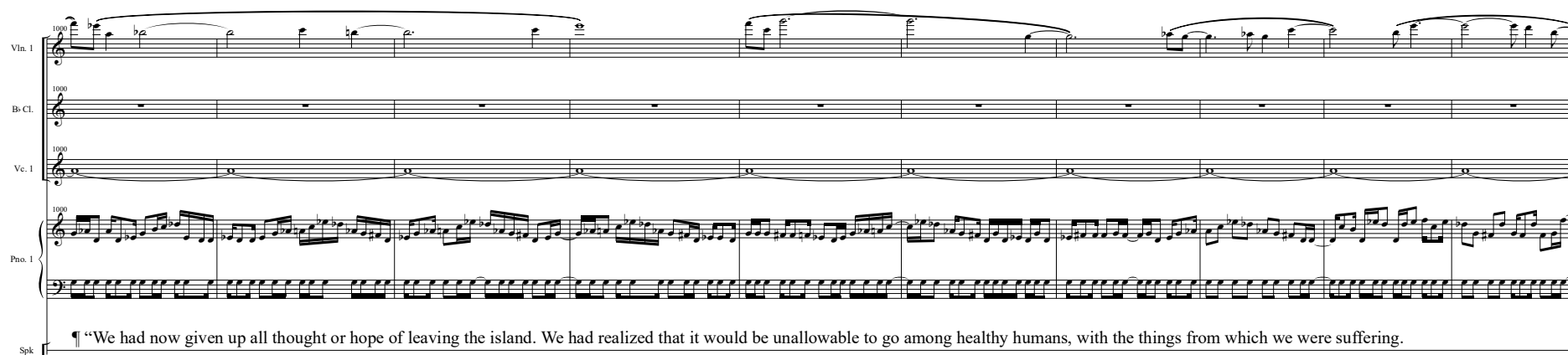
Vln. I

B. Cl.

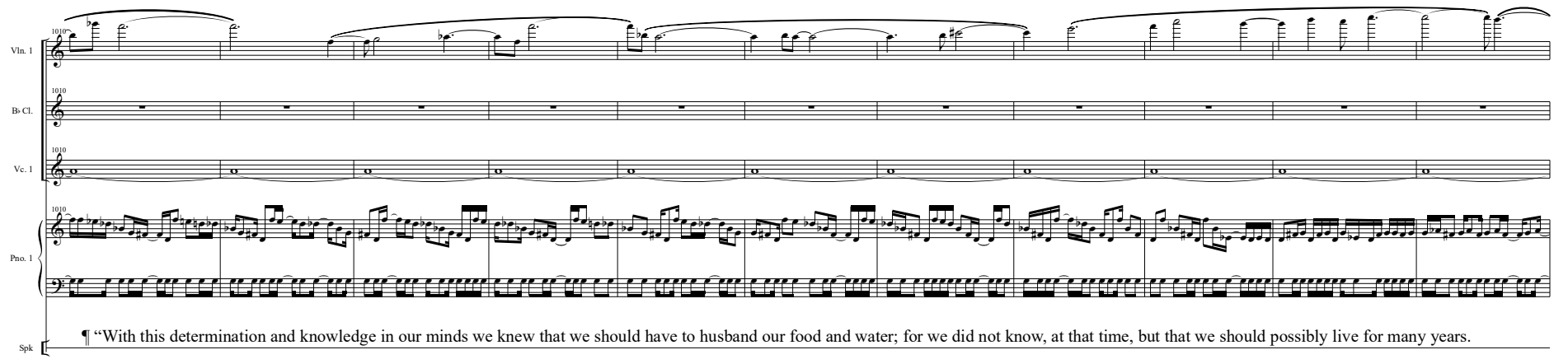
Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk ¶ "We had now given up all thought or hope of leaving the island. We had realized that it would be unallowable to go among healthy humans, with the things from which we were suffering.



1010



Vln. I

B. Cl.

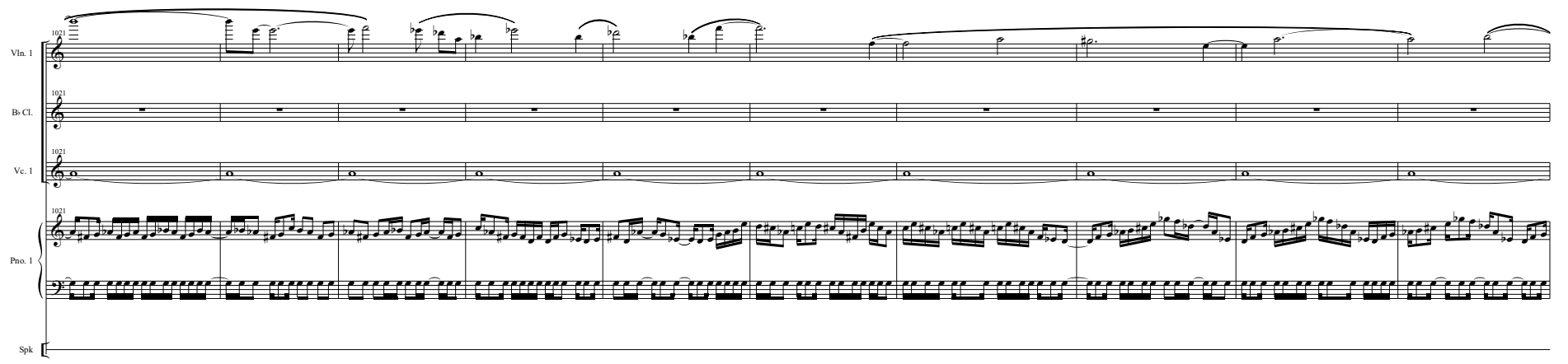
Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ "With this determination and knowledge in our minds we knew that we should have to husband our food and water; for we did not know, at that time, but that we should possibly live for many years."

1021



Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1031



Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1041

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1052

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

XIV.

1063

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ “This reminds me that I have told you that I am an old man. Judged by the years this is not so. But—but—” ¶ He broke off; then continued somewhat abruptly:

1107

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

towards the edge of the little clearing. It fell short, and a vague suspicion having arisen within me, I walked across and picked it up. It was a piece of the grey fungus. ¶ “As I went to her with it in my hand, she turned deadly pale; then rose red. ¶ “I felt strangely dazed and frightened. ¶ “My dear! My dear!” I said, and could say no more. Yet at words she broke down and cried bitterly. Gradually, as she calmed, I got from

1112

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

her the news that she had tried it the preceding day, and—and liked it. I got her to promise on her knees not to touch it again, however great our hunger. After she had promised she told me that the desire for it had come suddenly, and that, until the moment of desire, she had experienced nothing towards it but the most extreme repulsion.

1117

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

XV.

Change to Bass Clarinet

¶ “Later in the day, feeling strangely restless, and much shaken with the thing which I had discovered, I made my way along one of the twisted paths—formed by the white, sand-like

1131

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

substance—which led among the fungoid growth. I had, once before, ventured along there; but not to any great distance. This time, being involved in perplexing thought, I went much further than hitherto.

1144

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ “Suddenly I was called to myself by a queer hoarse sound on my left. Turning quickly I saw that there was movement among an extraordinarily shaped mass of fungus, close to my elbow. It was swaying uneasily, as though it possessed life of its own. Abruptly, as I stared, the thought came to me that the thing had a

1157

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

grotesque resemblance to the figure of a distorted human creature. Even as the fancy flashed into my brain, there was a slight, sickening noise of tearing, and I saw that one of the branch-like arms was detaching itself from the surrounding grey masses, and coming towards me. The head of the thing—a shapeless grey ball, inclined in my direction. I stood stupidly, and the vile arm brushed across my face. I gave out a

1171

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

frightened cry, and ran back a few paces. There was a sweetish taste upon my lips where the thing had touched me. I licked them, and was immediately filled with an inhuman desire. I turned and seized a mass of the fungus. Then more and—more. I was insatiable. In the midst of devouring, the remembrance of the morning's discovery swept into my mazed brain. It was sent by God. I dashed the fragment I held to the ground. Then, utterly wretched and feeling a dreadful guiltiness, I made my way back to the little encampment.

1184

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1198

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1211

Vln. I

B. Cl. (Still Bass Clarinet)

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

XVI.

pppp

pppp

pppp

pppp

¶ "I think she knew, by some marvellous intuition which love must have given, so soon as she set eyes on me. Her quiet sympathy made it easier for me, and I told her of my sudden weakness; yet omitted to mention the extraordinary thing which had gone before.

1228

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

I desired to spare her all unnecessary terror. ¶ "But, for myself, I had added an intolerable knowledge, to breed an incessant terror in my brain; for I doubted not but that I had seen the end of one of those men who had come to the island in the ship in the lagoon; and in that monstrous ending I had seen our own. ¶ "Thereafter we kept from the abominable food, though the desire for it had entered into our blood. Yet our dream

1246

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

XVII.

p

p

p

p

punishment was upon us; for, day by day, with monstrous rapidity, the fungoid growth took hold of our poor bodies. Nothing we could do would check it materially, and so—and so—we who had been human, became- - Well, it matters less each day. Only—only we had been man and maid!

1264

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ “And day by day the fight is more dreadful, to withstand the hungerlust for the terrible lichen. ¶ “A week ago we ate the last of the biscuit, and since that time I have caught three fish. I was out here fishing tonight when your schooner drifted upon me out of the mist. I hailed you. You know

1270

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

the rest, and may God, out of His great heart, bless you for your goodness to a—a couple of poor outcast souls.” ¶ There was the dip of an oar—another. Then the voice came again, and for the last time, sounding through the slight surrounding mist, ghostly and mournful. ¶ “God bless you! Good-bye!” ¶ “Good-bye,” we shouted together, hoarsely, our hearts full of many emotions.

XVIII.

1295

Vln. I

Bc. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

¶ I glanced about me. I became aware that the dawn was upon us. ¶ The sun flung a stray beam across the hidden sea; pierced the mist dully, and lit up the receding boat with a

1303

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

gloomy fire. Indistinctly I saw something nodding between the oars. I thought of a sponge—a great, grey nodding sponge— The oars continued to ply. They were grey—as was the boat—and my eyes searched a moment vainly for the conjunction of hand and oar. My gaze flashed back to the—head. It nodded forward as the oars went backward for the stroke. Then the oars were dipped, the boat shot out of the patch of

1309

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

light, and the—the thing went nodding into the mist.

1315

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1322

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

1330

Vln. I

B. Cl.

Vc. I

Pno. I

Spk

Northfield Falls, Vermont, February 18, 2002

VoxN

by Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

To be played to the short story
The Voice in the Night
by William Hope Hodgson

Written for the
Vermont Contemporary
Music Ensemble

February 18, 2002

Westleaf Edition W021

Notes on Performance

1. The pace of *The Voice in the Night* will vary substantially with the reader and the circumstances. With that understanding, *VoxN* was composed to provide flexible launching of the read text. An average reading of the short story require roughly 25 minutes, and this composition, with interludes, is approximately 50 minutes.
2. A sound reinforcement system is recommended for the reader during performance. This is not a stage work.
3. The tempo for the entire composition is MM=120. Tempo variations are written in to the individual sections, but flexibility is naturally recommended for the story pace and where the sections join.
4. The even-numbered parts (II-XVI) include detailed, written-out pitch and rhythmic aleatory/improvisation emulation. In these sections, approximation is acceptable, although an ideal performance would include the notes and rhythms played in exact detail.
5. An *ossia* part can be provided for the piano in Part V if needed for clarity.
6. *VoxN* may be performed as a stand-alone quartet in 17 unbroken movements. Dynamic levels and some muting effects may be eliminated, if desired.

The organization of the story and music:

<i>I. Prelude</i>	<i>VI. Third Calls</i>	<i>XI. Gardens</i>
<i>II. First Calls</i>	<i>B. Loving/Chastity</i>	<i>C. Failing/Obedience</i>
<i>A. Feeding/Charity</i>	10. Pondering	<i>XII. Sixth Calls</i>
1. The Night	11. Charity (The Return)	19. Cleansing III
2. The Call	<i>VII. Grains</i>	20. The Voice of God I
3. The Pause	12. Sinking	21. Hope (The Loss)
4. The Lamp	13. Gathering	<i>XIII. Failing</i>
<i>III. Progress</i>	<i>VIII. Fourth Calls</i>	22. Emptiness
<i>IV. Second Calls</i>	14. Loneliness (The Lagoon)	<i>XIV. Seventh Calls</i>
5. Pulling Away	15. Cleansing I	23. Deadly Sins
6. Hunger	<i>IX. Pulling</i>	24. The Voice of God II
<i>V. Lament</i>	<i>X. Fifth Calls</i>	<i>XV. Melisma</i>
7. Hidden Light	16. Cleansing II	<i>XVI. Eighth Calls</i>
8. The Lady	17. The Island	25. Abomination
9. The Box	18. Man and Maid	26. The Departure
		27. Grey
		<i>XVII. Dawn/Reprise</i>