

Below the Surface

I. Fossils

II. Anemones

For soprano and piano

Commissioned by Ensemble for These Times

Music by Emily Doolittle (2021)

Poetry by Rella Lossy (Fossils, 1996) and Rachel Richardson (Anemones, 2014)

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For soprano and piano

Duration: 8'00"

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Premiere performance by Ensemble for These Times: Nanette McGuinness, soprano, and Margaret Halbig, piano, January 29, 2022.

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FOSSILS

Herring-like fish. Teeming.
Billions of years old.
Bright brown on the pale limestone
of the Green River.
Now on display.
For sale.

Caressable,
their spines tickle the tips of my fingers.
Their eyes,
their eyes wander the shallows,
looking for lunch.

Fossils.
Netted by time.
The river bed a hard, stone cradle
of flattened mummies.
They live on,
negatives against the false positive
of the mind.

Clumped, aswim
on a wooden shelf,
they leap forever.

Fossils. Graceful, mysterious,
amid abundant seas of deadly time.

(Rella Lossy, 1996)

ANEMONES

Earliest memory: leaves of the olive tree
fluttering, the light coming through,
then not, then through, then not—

My horoscope advises me to avail myself
of the mystery
—and though I've never been a believer,
though I tie my shoes to the leg of the bed
in case of fire or quake because I won't
give myself to such flame
—still I can't help
watching these anemones
here in the tidepool, swayed by water's
whim, waving their many tentacles,
no direction, no intention—

(Rachel Richardson, 2014)

Below the Surface

I. Fossils

commissioned by Ensemble For These Times

Rella Lossy

Emily Doolittle

strong currents under a smooth surface

♩ = 92

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 92. The music features a piano accompaniment with triplets in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo).

Musical score for measures 5-9. The score continues in 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment features triplets in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano).

Musical score for measures 10-14. The score continues in 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment features triplets in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics "Her-ring - like fish, _____" are written below the vocal line.

15

Teem - ing.

mf *mp*

20

25

p

Bill - ions of years old. Bright brown on the pale lime -

29

stone Bright brown on the pale lime -

stone of the Green Ri - ver

mf *mp*

Now on dis -

mf

play. For sale.

f

più f *mf*

4 46 $\text{♩} = 128, \text{ a bit freer}$ *light*
p

ff

Ca - ress-ab-le, their spines tick-le the

50 *mp* *p*

tips of my fin - gers their

55 *mp* *p*

spines tick-le the tips of my fin - gers

59

their spines tick-le the tips of my

63 *mf* *mp*

fin - gers. Their eyes wan - der the hol - lows

68 *f* *mp* ♩ = 92

look - ing for lunch.

74

p

79 *mp*

Fos - sils.

Net-ted by time.

The riv-er bed a

p

hard, stone crad - le of flat - tened

mum - mies

mf

They live on,

f ne - ga - tives a - gainst the false pos - i - tives

of the mind.

f

8 112 *ff*

Clumped, a - swim

116

on a wood-en shelf, they leap for - ev - er..

121 *mf* *p*

A-

126 *poco rit.*

mid a - bun - dant seas of dead - ly

131 -

Musical score for measures 131-135. The score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. Measure 131 begins with a fermata over a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. A slur covers these three notes, with the word "time." written below. Measure 132 contains a whole rest. Measure 133 starts with a fermata over a quarter rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4. Measure 134 continues with a triplet of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5. Measure 135 concludes with a triplet of eighth notes: B4, A4, G4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

136 -

Musical score for measures 136-140. The score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. Measure 136 contains a whole rest. Measure 137 starts with a triplet of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4. Measure 138 continues with a triplet of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5. Measure 139 contains a whole rest. Measure 140 begins with a fermata over a quarter rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes: B4, A4, G4. The piece ends with a double bar line. The dynamic marking *pppp* is written below the staff in measure 140.

Anemones

commissioned by Ensemble for These Times

Rachel Richardson

Emily Doolittle

leafy, drifting

♩ = approx. 100

Soprano

mp

Ear - li - est mem' - ry:

Piano

mp

8^{va}

7

mf

leaves of the o - live tree

pp

flut - ter - ing,

loco

mf

pp

13

19 *pp* 11

flut-ter-ing, flut-ter-ing,

24

the light com-ing through, then not, then through then

30

not, then through, then not, then through, then not, then through, then

35 *mf*

not, then through, then not, then through, then not, then through, then not then...

12 40 *broad, expressive*

f *mp* *mf*

46

p *8va*

51

ff *p* *3* *loco*

55

mp *mf* *mp*

My ho-ro-scope ad - vis-es me to a - vail my-

8va *3* *mf* *3* *mp*

61

mf > mp *p* *mp* *p*

self of the mys-t'ry though I've ne-ver been a be - liev-er

8va *3* *3* *loco* *p*

66

though I tied my shoes to the foot of the bed in case of fire or quake

mp

3

72

be-cause I won't give my self to such flame

mf

mp

blurring, slowing

77

p

3

83

89

pp

14
95

freely, a bit slower

p

still I can't help wat - ching

101

mf

mp

p like a whisper

these a - ne - mo - nes here in the

107

tide-pool, swayed by the wa-ter's whim wa-ving their ma-ny

112

mp

pp

pp

ten-ta - cles no di-rec-tion, no in-ten-tion,

117

Musical score for measures 117-121. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line features two triplet eighth notes in measures 117, 118, 120, and 121. The piano accompaniment includes triplet eighth notes in the bass line and chords in the treble line.

no di-rec-tion, no in-ten-tion,

122

Musical score for measures 122-125. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line features a triplet eighth note in measure 122. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet eighth note in the bass line and chords in the treble line. A *8va* marking is present in measure 124, and a fermata is placed over the final chord in measure 125.

no di - rec - tion