

The Dark Half

for two pianos, synthesizer, and percussion

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Shiba Garden Press

SGP12111D

This edition published 2015 by Shiba Garden Press
P.O. Box 158
Story, WY 82842-0158

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ISBN-13: 978-1-329-27239-2

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Printed and bound in the United States of America

THE DARK HALF

I. Prologue

CHRISTIAN ERICKSON

Musical score for the first system of "THE DARK HALF I. Prologue". The score is in 4/4 time and consists of six staves: Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes, Piano I, Piano II, Synthesizer, and Birdsong SFX. The score is divided into three 10-minute sections by vertical dashed lines. The first section (0-10 min) features Piano I playing a melody starting on the 8th string, marked *mf*. The second section (10-20 min) continues the Piano I melody. The third section (20-30 min) features Wind Chimes playing a pattern marked *mf* and Birdsong SFX playing a pattern that becomes more active. The score includes performance instructions: "Randomly blow into or touch chimes; sparse at first, then become more active" for Wind Chimes; "within this range, pluck strings randomly with plectra" for Piano I; "continue simile but die away" for Piano I; "Fade in: a single bird sings out alone. As this 30-second opening progresses..." for Birdsong SFX; "...another joins in, then another after that, and so on..." for Birdsong SFX; and "...until there is a large mass of reverberating sound." for Birdsong SFX.

Musical score for the second system of "THE DARK HALF I. Prologue". The score is in 4/4 time and consists of six staves: Sus. Cym., W.Ch., Pno. I, Pno. II, Synth., and Bird SFX. The score is marked with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 60$ and a dynamic of *ff*. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure features Pno. I playing a melody marked *ff* and Pno. II playing a bass line marked *ff*. The second measure features Pno. I playing a melody marked *ff* and Pno. II playing a bass line marked *ff*. The third measure features Pno. I playing a melody marked *ff* and Pno. II playing a bass line marked *ff*. The score includes performance instructions: "poco rall." for Sus. Cym.; "poco rall." for Synth.; and "fade out" for Bird SFX.

Tempo rubato

Sus. Cym. 9

Pno. I

Pno. II

Synth.

f *l.v.*

mp *ff*

ad lib.: start slowly - accel. - - - - - rit.

fade

Tempo rubato

l.h.: gradually press harder and harder on the string inside the piano to create harmonics.

B Very free with much expression

rall. Moderately slow

Pno. I

Pno. II

p *pp* *pp* *mp*

simile

fade

fade

Pno. I

20

27 **A tempo** **C** **rall.**

Pno. I

Pno. II

mp *mf*

3



33 **A tempo** **A tempo**

Pno. I

Pno. II

mf *mp* *f*

firmly *8va* *15va*

fermata

Red



39 **rall.** **D** **A tempo**

Pno. I

Pno. II

f *f* *8va*

44 *mf* **rall.**

Pno. I

Pno. II



49 **E** **A tempo** *mf* **rall.**

Pno. I

with ped.



Set the lower strings in motion. Press firmly, but keep the volume just below the sound of Piano II. Let it vibrate for about 10 seconds, then let the sustain pedal up slowly (take at least five seconds to do so).

53 **Slowly** **rall.** *p* *gliss.* *ppp*

Pno. I

Pno. II

II. Fool's Stuffing

Sinister! ♩ = 120

Timpani

Snare Drum

Triangle

Bass Drum

Suspended Cymbal

Tam-tam

Whip

Piano I

Piano II

Synthesizer

Breathing EFX

Cup hand and strike lower strings

mf

both hands *8vb*

mp

f

mf

Sinister! ♩ = 120

Dark Drone

p

p

B. D.

Pno. I

Pno. II

Synth.

mp

mf

pp

mp

ff

f

pp

mf

ff

A In one (♩. = 60) **rall.**

B. D. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Sus. Cym. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ scrape w/ metal beater *mp*

Pno. I *mf*

Pno. II *f*

Strings **A** In one (♩. = 60) **rall.** *mf* *p*



B ♩ = 72

S. D. **Freely** Rimshot *f*

Pno. I *p* *ff* *mp*

Pno. II *p* *mf* *p* both hands loco

Strings **B** ♩ = 72 *pp*

tremolo: start slow; speed up

D ♩ = 100

29

Timp. *p*

S. D. *pp* 5 *8^{va}-7*

Pno. I *p*

Pno. II *f* 3

35

Pno. I *f* 3 *ff* 3

Pno. II *cresc.* 3 *fff* 3

Freely (ca. 10")

39

S. D. *mp* 5

Sus. Cym. *pp* *f* *l.v.*

Pno. I *p* *15^{me}*

Pno. II *f* 3 *ff* *ppp*

Synth. Vibes *f* *ppp* *15^{me}*

Freely (ca. 10")

using a plectrum, pick strings in this range...

play random notes in this range...

E ♩ = 106

45

B. D. *p*

Pno. I *f*

Pno. II *ff* *8^{va}* *mp* *3* *8^{va}* *cross hands*



50

B. D.

Pno. I *mf* *6*

Pno. II *f* *3* *8^{va}*

Synth. *f* *High note — Intruder EFX*

Breath EFX *ppp* *ff*



F

55

S. D. *p*

Pno. I *pp* *sf* *mf* *Sost. Ped.*

Pno. II *p* *rh lh rh lh etc.* *ff* *Ped.*

69

Timp.

S. D.

Pno. I

Pno. II



72

Timp.

S. D.

T-t.

Pno. I

Pno. II

H ♩ = 150

III. Stark Takes Charge

Slow ♩ = 72

wait briefly

Scrape w/ metal beater *L.v.* *p*

scrape *L.v.* *mp*

ppp *L.v.*

pp

p

p

mf *8th*

Knife

mf *8th*

Slow ♩ = 72

The score is for a 4/4 piece in 4/4 time, marked 'Slow' with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. The percussion section includes Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Tam-tam, Anvil, Bongos, Claves, Guiro, and Xylophone. The piano section includes Piano I and Piano II. The Xylophone part is written in treble clef. The piano parts are in bass clef, with Piano I having an 8th note bass line. The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *mp*, *ppp*, and *mf*, as well as performance instructions like 'scrape w/ metal beater', 'scrape', 'wait briefly', and 'Lie a dish towel on the strings as a mute; strike the string with the handle end of a table knife'. There are also markings for 'L.v.' (left hand) and '3' (triplets).

9

Sus. Cym. *mf* scrape *l.v.*

T.-t.

Bongos *mf*

Clv. *p* *poco*

Pno. I

Pno. II *p*

Synth. *Wakido* *p* *f* *p*



14 **A**

S. D.

Sus. Cym. *f* *l.v.* brush swirls *p*

T.-t. *ppp* *ad lib.*

Bongos *pp* *f* *ppp* *p*

Clv. *p*



20 *ad lib.*

S. D. *mf* *p* swirls

Bongos *mf* *f* *sub. p*

Clv. *mf* *ff* *p*

B Faster ♩ = 100

24

Sus. Cym. *pp*

Pno. I

Knife with towel (no pedal)

p *mp* *p*

Ped.



C Driving rock feel ♩ = 126

31

S. D.

Sus. Cym. *f* *l.v.*

Pno. I

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *ff*

Pno. II

loco *sfz* *ff* *8^{va}*

Synth.

C Driving rock feel ♩ = 126

f

sticks *p* *f*



34

S. D.

pp *f* *p* *f*

Pno. I


ff *8^{va}*

Pno. II

loco *8^{va}*

Synth.

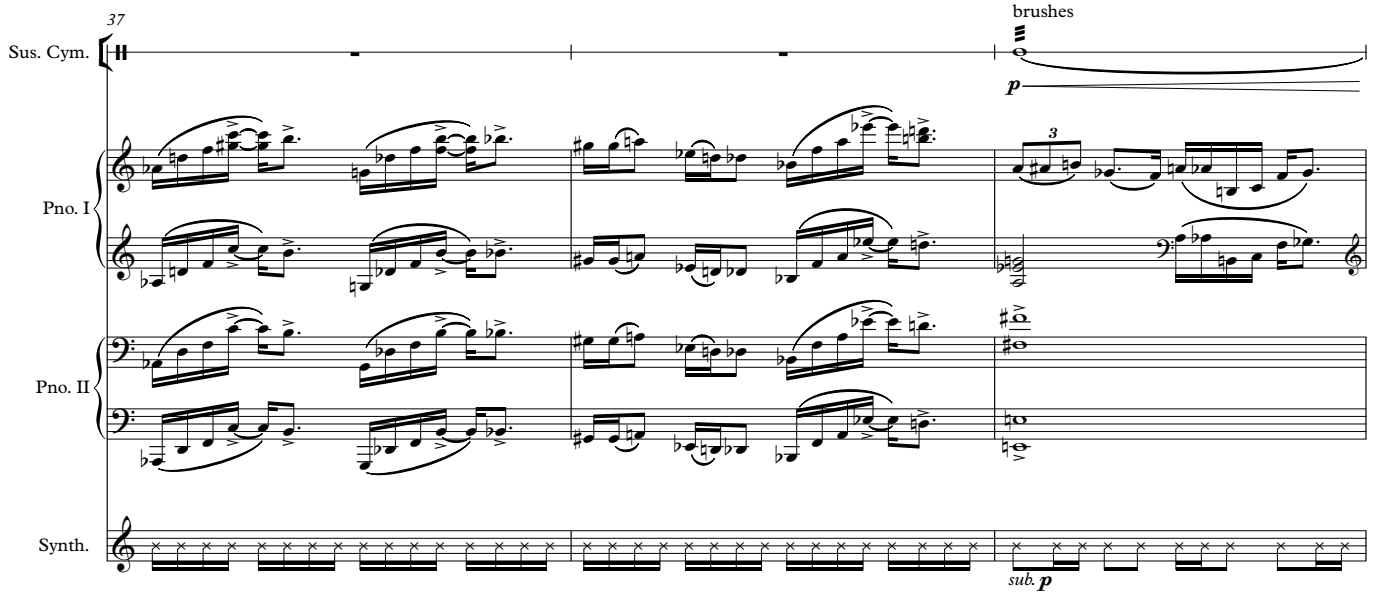
37

Sus. Cym.  brushes *p*

Pno. I

Pno. II

Synth. *sub. p*



40

S. D. *pp* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Sus. Cym.  sticks *f*

Pno. I *sfz* *fff* *ff*

Pno. II *sfz* *sfz*

Synth. *f*

8^{vb}



44

S. D. *p* *f* *p* *f* *f* **D**

Sus. Cym. *f* *p* *mf* *l.v.*

Gro. *ppp* *8^{va}*

Pno. I *sfz* *loco* *cresc.* *3* *3* *3* *fff* *pp* *8^{va}*

Pno. II *sfz* *loco* *cresc.* *3* *3* *3* *fff* *pp*

Synth. **D**

48

Gro. *mf*

Xyl. *f* *3* *f* *3*

Pno. I *f* *ff* *3* *ff* *f*

Pno. II *mf*

53

T.-t. *pp*

Xyl. *3* *3* *3* *3*

Pno. I *ff* *3* *3* *3*

Pno. II *fff* *8^{va}*

56 *poco rall.*

T-t. *f* *l.v.*

Pno. I *sfz*

Pno. II *sfz* *8va*

Synth. *poco rall.*



59 **Meno mosso** **Slowly**

B. D. *ff*

Sus. Cym. *f* *mp* *l.v.*

Anv. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Gro. *ff*

Pno. I *fff* *ff* *Fast stroke with guitar pick on piano strings*

Pno. II *fff* *ff* *Scrape credit card down length of strings a la Cowell's Banshee*

Synth. **Meno mosso** **Slowly** *ff* *n*

IV. The Coming of the Psychopomps

Maestoso

Timpani *sfz* *sfz* *pp*

Bass Drum

Suspended Cymbal *f* *f* *pp*

Chimes

Piano I *ff* *ff* *ff*

Piano II *ff*

Synthesizer **Maestoso**
Dark, sinister pad *ff* *f*

6 **A** $\text{♩} = 100$

Timpani *mf* *p*

Sus. Cym. *mf* *f* *l.v.* *solo*

Pno. I *mp* *Edo.*

Pno. II

Synth. **A** $\text{♩} = 100$ *fade*

12

Pno. I

poco cresc.

ped. simile

19

Pno. I

rall.

B **A tempo**

25

Pno. I

with pedal

Pno. II

mf espressivo

31

Pno. I

forcefully

f

Pno. II

forcefully

f

Synth.

C

PPP

mp

n

37

Pno. I

calmer

Pno. II

mf

8^{va} 1



42

Pno. I

Pno. II

ff



47

molto rall. . . . **D** *Maestoso* ♩ = 60

Timp.

ff

Sus. Cym.

pp *f*

Pno. I

ff

8^{va}

Pno. II

f *molto*

tr^b ~ tr^b ~ tr^b ~ tr^b ~

8^{ub} 1

50

Timp.

B. D.

Sus. Cym.

Pno. I

Pno. II

p *f*

8^{va}...1

52

Timp.

B. D.

Sus. Cym.

Pno. I

Pno. II

p *f*

8^{va}...1

V. Epilogue

1 **Slowly, with much expression** **poco rall.**

Pno. I

Pno. II *mp*

8^{va} . . . 8^{va} . . .

Ped.

10 **A tempo** **Faster** **rall. . . . A tempo** **A**

Pno. I

Pno. II

15 **rit. . . .** **ppp**

Pno. I

Pno. II *mp* *pp*

8^{va} . . .