

LINDA DUSMAN

ELIO: VISIONS OF LIGHT

For soprano, flute, cello, piano, and percussion
c. 1985

TEXTS:

Movement I: elio (light)
faos epischi (light spreads)

Movement III:
chrysso terra (more golden than gold)
Chrysso pethilos Avos
(gold-sandalled Dawn)

Movement II: tetix (cricket)

Standing by my bed

At noontime
When the earth is
Bright with flaming
Heat falling straight down

In gold sandals
Dawn that very
Moment woke me.
(transl. Mary Barnard)

The cricket sets
Up a high-pitched
Singing in its wings
(transl. Mary Barnard)

Movement IV:
asteres (stars)
Vrothothaktylos selanan
(rosy fingered moon)
Pleiathes (the Pleiades)

The moon has set
And the Pleiades;
It is midnight

And time passes
I lie alone.
(transl. D.A. Campbell)

(Special permission for the use of the Mary Barnard translation granted by the University of California Press; special permission for the use of the D.A. Campbell translations granted by the Trustees of Harvard University; special thanks to Eudoxia Cutler for additional translations.)

Movement I

Linda Dusman

Very Slow, Motionless, Legato

♩ = unmeasured

Soprano

Flute

Vibraphone

Violoncello

Piano

app. 10"

♩ = 40

3

motor off

motor on

♩ = 40



3

♩ = unmeasured, very slowly

app. 15"

full of breath

5

motor off

pizz.

l.v.

** Each player selects his own tempo for ♩.
Entrances should be made according to the dotted
arrows after the preceding player has begun
his line; however the exact timing is left to the individual.

* Pluck strings
*** Muted strings; play on the key

4 $\text{♩} = 40$

accel. rit.
p cresc. *mf* *dim.*

motor off

p *mp*

p

mp *8^{va}* *6* *6* *6*

6 $\text{♩} = 60$, Freely

E - li - o E - li - o E - li - o E - li - o!

Tu

* motor off

p cresc. *mf*

p cresc. *mf*

p cresc. *mf*

7

O E - li - O!

* Phrases are repeated, each performer at his own tempo selected from within the given range, until the soprano completes her line and the cue is given to continue.

♩ = 72 Ecstatically

f Fa - os e - pi - schi!

very wide vibrato

mf

motor on

mf

f

8^{va} ----- No 8^{va}

Red.

20

Fa - os e - pi - schi!

f

E - pi - schi

ord.

lv.

poco dim.

mf

f pedal sempre



Movement II

25 **Faster** (♩ = 80)

piccolo wood block

p

**

K K K K

T

whisper

te-tix te-tix K K

T

* Rap on braces inside piano with knuckles
 ♩ = low ♩ = high

** Tongue snaps against
 roof of mouth

*** Key slaps

30

* spoken

whisper

spoken

K K K K

te-tix! te-tix! At noon-time K K

when the earth is

T

gliss.

normal wood block bongos

sul pont.

** 15^{ma} sempre



35

3

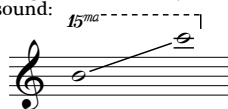
bright when the earth is bright with fla - ming heat falling straight down

f sul pont.

gliss.

* Singer should always speak expressively and rhythmically

** Prepare this range of the piano by taping strings to mute the sound:



*** Rap on body of cello with knuckles

dim. whisper 40

K K The cric-ket the cric-ket

T

pp dim.

p



spoken breathlessly 45 sung

sets up a high pitched a high pitched

p

pp pp

sul pont. sul pont. normal

pp

* Rap on keyboard cover in open position with knuckles

47 Same tempo (♩ = 80)

te - tix te - tix a high pitched

* Presto

T

* Presto

* Presto

sul pont. *normal*

* Presto

15^{ma}



48 Ecstatically!
poco piu mosso (♩ = 88)

Sing - ing in his wings, sing - ing in his wings, sing-ing sing-ing sing-ing in his wings!

** Prestissimmo

** Prestissimmo

** Prestissimmo

sul pont. *normal*

** Prestissimmo

15^{ma} sempre

sfz

* Repeat events in any order until conductor cues next box. Finish the current event and continue.

** Repeat events in any order until conductor cuts. Stop immediately on cue.
*** With flat hands, tremolo between black and white keys.

Movement III

piano, cello tacet

50 $\text{♩} = 50-54$ * *pp*-cresc. *mf* dim. 15"

Sop. *ee* *o*

Fl. ** *tr* (slow)

Vib. motor on *mp* *lv.*

p *mp* *softly, wondering, chant-like* *legato*

E-li - - - o Chrys - so Chrys so - ter - ra,

p *mp* *p* - sempre *legato*

mp *lv.* *lv.*

55 *mp* *mp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Chrys-so - pe - thi - las A - vos, Vro - tho - pac - hin A - vos

lv. *mp* *simile*

* Sing for the length of a long breath. Change vowel at the height of the crescendo.

** It is not necessary for multiphonic pitches to sound simultaneously in any of the rest of "Elio."

mf 3

Pot - ni - a A - vos

ord.

3

motor off

pp

5

60

5

3

5

5

Softly, motionless

Chrys - so, Chrys-so ter - ra!

pp

pp

6

65

65 66 67 68

69 70 71 72

p Stand - ing, Stand-ing by my bed in gold - en san - dals, _

pp motor on

accelerando

73 74 75 76

p Dawn *sub. p* *cresc.* *sub. p*

mf motor off

sub. *mp* 75 *p* sub. *p* *mp*

Dawn — that ve - ry mo - ment, Dawn —

sub. *mp* 3 6 6 6

sub. *mp* 6 *pp* 6

Tempo Rubato

p *diminuendo* senza vibrato *attacca*,

— woke me!

p 3 senza vibrato *attacca*,

p 5 motor on (slow) *pp* *attacca*,

Movement IV

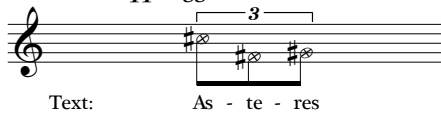
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General Directions:

1. Play the given pitches in many different orders to create phrases. The phrases may contain all the given pitches or any number of them. Pitches may be repeated within the phrase.
2. Play the given pitches in the indicated range (high, medium, low) appropriate to your instrument.
3. Use the notated rhythms and rhythms derived from them.
4. Phrases may be of any length unless indicated otherwise. However, always pause to listen before entering, then enter unobtrusively.
5. Notation: ∞ = special effects (inside piano, flute multiphonics, bowed vibraphone, cello harmonics, etc.)
● = "normal" sounds.

I. ASTERES (stars)

High Range
Andante, pp, leggiero, détaché



a. **Beginning:** Soprano whispers once, "Asteres."

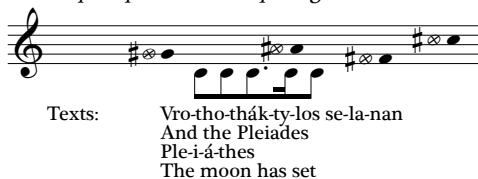
b. **Ensemble:** Play the given pitches in many orders, with a feeling of revolving.

Soprano: Sing lightly or whisper the text as often as you wish. Move slowly. Allow the sounds of the other instruments to surround you. Blend with them and become part of the total texture.

c. **Conclusion:** Soprano changes to next section when she wishes. Instruments complete the phrase they are playing before continuing.

II. VROTHOTHAKTYLOS SELANAN (rosy-fingered moon)

Mid-range
Un poco piu mosso, sempre legato

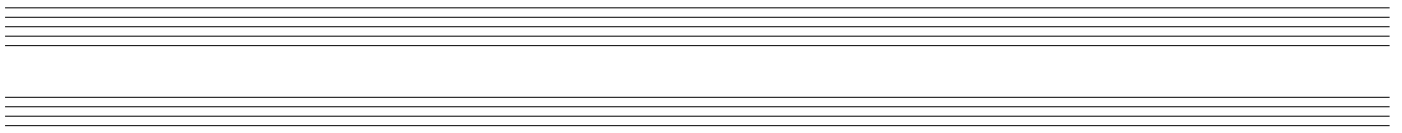


Ensemble: Begin with a phrase or two of your own creation. Then create phrases by listening to the rest of the ensemble and imitating them in some respect (melodically, rhythmically, timbrally, etc.).

Soprano: Softly sing the 4 texts in any order, repeating each phrase only once. Each phrase should last for the length of one breath.

Conclusion: Soprano sings "The moon has set." Finish your current phrase and move to III.

Notes for performance



III. CHRONOS (time)

Moderato, mp - mf, Low Range



Texts: It is midnight
And time passes

Ensemble: Begin with a phrase of or your own creation. Create ensuing phrases by contrasting with the sounds of theirs on some level (dynamics, articulation, etc.). Each phrase should last for the length of one breath.

Soprano: Sing in a stronger voice, more assertively. Use rhythms suggested by the text. Sing each phrase on the length of one breath. Repeat each phrase as often as you like.

Conclusion: Soprano sings "And time passes," singing each word strongly on a length-of-a-breath note.

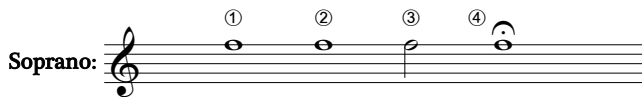
IV. ELEFTERIOS (liberty)

Allegro, All ranges



Ensemble:

Conclusion cues:



Text: I lie a - lone

Ensemble: Create your phrases using motives from previous parts of this section and from the rest of *Elio*. Though you should blend with the rest of the ensemble, do not take what they are playing into consideration when creating your phrases. Always play with strength and assertiveness. Each phrase lasts the length of a breath.

Soprano: Repeat the text as often as you wish, using rhythms suggested by the text. Always sing exuberantly, with strength and assertiveness. Each phrase lasts the length of a breath.

Conclusion: On soprano's last repetition of the text, sing each note on the length of a breath. At the indicated cue numbers, instrumentalists should move to the given motive, repeating it over and over, faster and faster, without pause. Conductor will cut at the end of the soprano's last breath. Piano and vibraphone: let ring to silence.

Conclusion:

① Piano



② Cello



③ Vibraphone



④ Flute

