

Cello

Pyrolysis

I. Black Sugar

II. Smoke Water

III. Beehive Coke

for Vibraphone, Piano and String Quartet

Kitra Razin

2019

INSTRUMENTATION

Vibraphone
Piano
2 Violins
Viola
Cello

Duration: ca. 8.5 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE

The process of pyrolysis irreversibly alters the composition of organic materials via thermal decomposition. A by-product of pyrolysis is black sugar, a shiny, powder pollutant. Additionally, pyrolysis produces a fuel from coal called coke. Coke is manufactured in brick beehive ovens.

Smoke water, though unrelated to pyrolysis, functions similarly to pyrolysis when it permanently alters seed structures during the germination of plant species.

The piece *Pyrolysis*, inspired by other chamber works, much like the chemical process itself, utilizes transformational techniques similar to pyrolytic reactions.

Each movement shares characteristics with both the chemical it is titled after and the colloquial secondary meaning.

“Black Sugar” is small (short) and sweet, and it is intended to complement as well as enhance the other movements.

“Smoke Water” is fluid with shifting tonal centers, like ripples in a lake, but its predominantly minor tonality and unorthodox modulations infuse the movement with a dark, impure, smoky quality.

“Beehive Coke” is the brightest movement and the first with an unambiguously major key, resembling an effervescent carbonated soda.

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I. Black Sugar

Cello

Kitra Razin

♩ = 120

pizz.

mf

6

f

A

16

sub. p *p < mf >*

22

B

mp *f* *mp*

27

C

38

D

arco

E

p *mf* *ppp < mp* *mf*

47

F

arco

pizz. *p*

II. Smoke Water

Cello

$\text{♩} = 60$

(3 + 2)

p cresc. *mp cresc.* *f*

5

p cresc. *poco a poco*

A

f *p cresc.*

14

f subito p *f* *p mf* *p mp* *pp*

B

(3 + 2)

mp cresc.

19

f *p mf* *p*

21

(3 + 2)

(2 + 3)

mf *p mp* *pp cresc.* *mf*

II. Smoke Water
Cello

C **D** (3 + 2) *sul pont.* *ord.*

6 *p*

35 (2 + 3) (3 + 2)

40 (2 + 3) (3 + 2) **E** *sul pont.* *mp*

45 *p* *f* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

51 *ord.* *ff*

F

55 *p*

58 *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *accel.*

62 *p* *mp* *f* *attacca*

III. Beehive Coke

Cello

♩ = 90 - 112

mf

6

11 *sul pont.* **A** *pp*

16 *ord.* **B** *mf* *p*

21

III. Beehive Coke

25

2

C

mf

30

34

37

D

2

43

48

E

p cresc.

f