

# 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.

This page has been intentionally left blank to facilitate page turns.

# I. Black Sugar

Viola

Kitra Razin

♩ = 120

Musical staff 1: Measures 1-5. Includes a fermata with a '5' above it. Dynamics: *p*, *mf*, *mp*.

Musical staff 2: Measures 6-10. Includes a box labeled 'A' above measure 7. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*.

Musical staff 3: Measures 11-15. Includes 'pizz.' above measure 12.

Musical staff 4: Measures 16-20. Includes a box labeled 'B' above measure 16 and 'arco' above measure 17. Dynamics: *mp*, *f*.

Musical staff 5: Measures 21-25. Includes boxes labeled 'C' above measure 21 and 'D' above measure 24. Dynamics: *pp*, *mf*, *sub. p*.

Musical staff 6: Measures 26-30. Includes a box labeled 'E' above measure 28. Dynamics: *ppp*, *mp*, *mf*.

Musical staff 7: Measures 31-35. Includes a box labeled 'F' above measure 33. Dynamics: *p*.

# II. Smoke Water

Viola

$\text{♩} = 60$

(3 + 2)

$p$  *cresc.*  $mp$  *cresc.*  $f$

$p$  *cresc.*  $poco\ a\ poco$

**A**  $f$   $p$  *cresc.* (3 + 2)

**B** (3 + 2)  $f$  *subito*  $p$   $f$   $p$   $mf$   $p$   $mp$   $pp$   $p$  *cresc.*

$f$   $p$   $mf$   $p$

$mf$   $pp$  *cresc.* (3 + 2)

$mf$  (2 + 3) **C**  $mf$  5

# II. Smoke Water

Viola

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

35 (2 + 3) (3 + 2) (2 + 3)

42 (3 + 2) **E** mp p f

48 ord. sul pont. ord.

52 **F** ff p

56

58 mp p mf

61 accel. p pp p mp f attacca

# II. Smoke Water

Viola

$\text{♩} = 60$

(3 + 2)

*p cresc.* *mp cresc.* *f*

*p cresc.* *poco a poco* *f*

*f* *p cresc.*

*f subito p* *f* *p mf* *p mp* *pp* *p cresc.*

*f* *p mf* *p*

*mf* *pp cresc.*

*mf*

# II. Smoke Water

Viola

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

35 (2 + 3) (3 + 2) (2 + 3)

42 (3 + 2) **E** *mp* *p* *f*

48 *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.*

52 **F** *ff* *p*

56

58 *mp* *p* *mf*

61 *accel.* *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *f* *attacca*



# III. Beehive Coke

Viola

♩ = 90 - 112

