

Storm Warning

For Piano and Voice

Music: Alex van den Broek

Text: Riemke Ensing

2014

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1. Kaipara
2. Backwater Spells

Duration: approx. 8mins

Notes for the performers

Kaipara is a very vertical piece, but it should be played with some expression. The bell-like section starting at bar 46 should be as resonant as possible. Wait until the piano decays to pianissimo before continuing at bar 55

Backwater Spells should be played very freely. Follow the singer in a general way whilst maintaining the sense of phrasing. Do not try and 'line up' and attack any notes together. The phrasing is very important in the piece, observe the dashed slur markings. Follow the pedal markings carefully, they are very specific and often the piano part should be very 'dry' to contrast with the richer sustained moments.

Programme Notes

As a composer I enjoy working with text and in particular the poetry of Riemke Ensing, whose work I have set before. Riemke and I have a shared experience and identity in that we are both Dutch born New Zealanders and I find that this resonates throughout her writing. In particular I found the text of this collection of poetry beautiful, striking, and highly evocative of the New Zealand landscape. Thematically I responded to the ideas of land, time and identity which have long held appeal for me.

When reading the text it seemed very resonant and with rhythms, movement and colour that would naturally adapt and respond to being set to music. My aim in setting the text was not to undo its beauty and strength by merely swamping it with musical ideas and language. Rather I hope I have imbued the words with the added colour and emotional impact that music can contribute.

These two poems are taken from the thirteen poems that form the collection entitled *Storm Warning – After McCahon*.

Alex van den Broek (2014)

Kaipara:

♩ = 84
mp

Voice

There's this great swee-ping lone - li-ness. fea- thers

Piano

8

and bone and wind swept de - so - la - tion.

13

The sea rest - less, al-ways on the move but age - less

17

in jour-neys and me-ta-phor. Birds al-so crea-tures

22 *f* *mp* *p*

of a - rri - val, the ma-nu-hi - ri - wai-ting on the rock

27

for rit-u-al and call. In

33

the score of bro-ken surf swept in on mi-ra - cles

40 *f* *p*

through all this pa ssion of sur-vi - val, a raft of vio - let shells

46

spoken: 'Janthina Janthina'

Ped.

52

59

Poco rit.

or - a - cle in praise of sanc - tu - a - ry.

Backwater Spells:

Freely (♩ = 88 approx)

Voice

Piano

p *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

p *3*

At Mu-ri - wai_ we

4

walk with friends and find a whale_ bone bur-ied in the sand.

mp *p* *pp*

3

7

We ex - ca - vate_

mf *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

3

10

and lie curled in the great bel - ly

mp *p*

3 *3* *3* *3*

2 12

of earth sur - roun - ded

mp *pp*

Ped. Ped.

15

by wa - ter and the

p *p* *mf* *p*

Ped.

18

al - ways cir - cle of be - ing.

p *p* *p*

Ped. Ped.

21

f

Ped. Ped.

24

Mo-by Dick is sigh - ted on a per-fect day

p *mp*

Ped.

27

and the curved sky-line vaults with the

Ped.

29

soar of stone sing - ing.

p *mp* *p*

Ped.

33

f *mp* *mp*

Ped.

36 *mf*

From be-hind a great rock face of stone braced in - to the

mp *mf* *mp*

Ped.

40

sky, the god-dess of flutes shapes the

mp

Ped.

43

wind through bones of birds and guards the

p *mf* *mp* *f*

Ped.

45

cave hol-ding the sun in its pro - mise.

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

mp *p*

Ped.

49

Walls ig- nite and flame in a last splen - dour of

mp *mf* *p*

53

light. deep from with-in

mp *p* **Molto rit.**

59

you think you hear great fish cal - ling.

p *decresc.* *ppp*