



Blue Stones

for solo bass

Alexa Letourneau

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5'15"

November 2020

Blue Stones is inspired by the last day before I entered quarantine due to the Covid-19 pandemic. My choir was on tour in South Africa, where the virus had not yet reached. We had just performed our final tour concert the night before, knowing that it would be the last time we would be able to make live music for a long time: not only was tour ending, but so was life as we knew it. Our final morning together was spent at a winery, called Blaauwklippen (meaning blue stones in Afrikaans,) trying to relish our last moments together. After an hour of tearful speeches from the Seniors, saying goodbye to their choir family for good, we composed ourselves just long enough to perform one last piece: Shawn Kirchner's arrangement of the spiritual *Unclouded Day*. This piece aims to portray all of the complex emotions I felt that day: pride in our accomplishments, fear of the unknown future, immense sadness that my college experience was ending so abruptly, and above all, love for all of my friends and the music we shared.



Circled tip on a hairpin indicates to or from niente

♭ indicates snap pizzicato

⊕ indicates right-hand pizzicato

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Pensive and Unsure, Molto Rubato ♩ = 80-92

Tuning

Contrabass

sul tasto

f mp sub. f

5 *sul pont. p* *quasi cadenza pp* *sul tasto*

8 *f ff mp* *gliss.* *III III I* *3*

11 *f mp pp* *ord.* *sul tasto*

13 *p mp* *sul pont. quasi cadenza* *sul tasto*

15 *f mp ff* *ord.* *5 6*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a solo contrabass in 4/4 time. It begins with a tuning diagram and a first staff of music. The first staff starts with a 'sul tasto' instruction and a dynamic of *f*. It features a series of notes with slurs and a sixteenth-note triplet. The second staff, starting at measure 5, includes a 'sul pont.' instruction, a dynamic of *p*, and a 'quasi cadenza' section with a dynamic of *pp*. This section contains a five-note slur, a six-note slur, and a seven-note slur. The third staff, starting at measure 8, has dynamics of *f*, *ff*, and *mp*. It includes a 'gliss.' instruction and a triplet of three notes. The fourth staff, starting at measure 11, has dynamics of *f*, *mp*, and *pp*. It includes an 'ord.' instruction and a 'sul tasto' instruction. The fifth staff, starting at measure 13, has dynamics of *p* and *mp*. It includes a 'sul pont. quasi cadenza' instruction and a 'sul tasto' instruction. The sixth staff, starting at measure 15, has dynamics of *f*, *mp*, and *ff*. It includes an 'ord.' instruction and slurs of 5 and 6 notes.

20 **With Melancholy Stability** ♩ = 76-82

f dolce *mp* *p* *pizz.* *arco*

24 *subtle bluegrass feeling*

f *mp* *f*

28 *senza bluegrass*

mp *f* *p* *arco*

31

f *p sub.* *p* *f* *pizz.*

36 *arco*

f *p* *f* *mp* *arco* *+ f (pizz.)*

40

ff *p* *f* *pizz.* *arco*

43

p

45

p *f* *mp* *ff* *mp* *ff*

48

f *pizz.* *p* *f* *arco*

Quasi Sea Shanty ♩ = 82

53

0
n.v.
f

56

mp *ff*

60

p sub. *f* *mp* *p* *arco* 0

64

playful and snarky
f *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

67

f(pizz.)

70

pizz. arco
bluegrass feeling

f *mp* *ppp*

74

0 3 5 3

77

f *ff*

6 6 6 3

79

6 3 *mf*

ritardando

81

fff *ff* *f* *mp* pizz.

Pastoral and dreamlike, filled with nostalgia ♩ = 80

86 flautando arco

ppp

0

6

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, starting at measure 86. It is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4, then to 3/4, and finally back to 4/4. The music features a melodic line with various note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A dynamic marking of *ppp* is present. A finger number '0' is indicated below the staff, and a sixteenth-note triplet is marked with a bracket and the number '6'.

90

p *pp* *ppp*

5

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, starting at measure 90. It continues on the treble clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The music includes a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p*, followed by *pp*, and then *ppp*. A five-note slur is marked with the number '5'.

95 n.v.

0

3 5 3

pizz.

p

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, starting at measure 95. It features a treble clef staff with a 'n.v.' (no vibrato) instruction. The music includes a melodic line with triplets of eighth notes, marked with brackets and the numbers '3', '5', and '3'. A dynamic marking of *p* is present. A 'pizz.' (pizzicato) instruction is also shown.

99

0 0 0

arco

0

pp

ppp

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of music, starting at measure 99. It features a treble clef staff with a '0 0 0' instruction. The music includes a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *pp*. A 'pizz.' instruction is present. A 'arco' instruction is shown above the staff. A finger number '0' is indicated below the staff. A dynamic marking of *ppp* is also present.

102

pizz.

0

3 3 5

ppp

Detailed description: This block contains the fifth system of music, starting at measure 102. It features a bass clef staff with a 'pizz.' instruction. The music includes a melodic line with triplets of eighth notes, marked with brackets and the numbers '3', '3', and '5'. A dynamic marking of *ppp* is present.

105

mp

3

Detailed description: This block contains the sixth system of music, starting at measure 105. It features a bass clef staff with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The music includes a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes, marked with a bracket and the number '3'.