

Trombone Concerto No. 1
Under Star-Dark Seas

Alexa Letourneau

for trombone soloist
and string quartet
(or string orchestra)

Under Star-Dark Seas

For Vyvyan Ricks

Trombone and String Quartet

19'

November 2018

I was first inspired to write Under Star-Dark Seas while on a cruise. With seven days at sea in a row, I became enthralled with the different characters that water can present when the distractions of land are removed. The piece is structured in three movements, all performed attacca, with each section demonstrating a different aquatic character I observed on that trip. The first movement is characterized by jumping, disjoint lines in the strings, playing the part of the dolphins intermingling with the more flowing trombone melody. Movement two is a storm at sea with intense dissonance and phrenetic rhythms within rapidly changing meters. The harshness of the storm is left behind, however, as we plunge beneath the churning surface. Here, the true nature of the sea is revealed in tranquil yet excited melodies. Not even the stars in the sky interrupt the sense of calm one feels beneath the waves.

All grace notes should be played before the beat, and only slurred to the next note where marked.

Trombone cadenzas are extremely free; notated rhythms are a suggestion, but individual interpretation by the soloist should take precedence.

Under Star-Dark Seas

Concerto no. 1

for Trombone and String Quartet (or String Orchestra) Alexa Letourneau

I. Dolphins

Pensively
Cadenza

Trombone

Tbn.

p *pp* *f*

ff *mp* *f*

gliss.

A Whimsically
♩ = 126

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

mp *mp* *mp*

5

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

10

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

15

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

19

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

f

B

23

Tbn.

f cantabile

Vln. 1

p sub.

Vln. 2

p sub.

Vla.

p sub.

Vc.

p sub.

29

Tbn.

mp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

35

Tbn.

gliss.

fp

Vln. 1

p

Vln. 2

p

Vla.

p

Vc.

p

C

Tbn. *mp*³

Vln. 1 *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. 2 *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

Tbn. *p* *fp*

Vln. 1 *p* *fp*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Tbn. *f* *mp* *ff*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

52

Tbn. *mp* *pizz.*

Vln. 1 *mp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

57

Tbn. *f* *mp* *f* *gliss.*

Vln. 1 *f* *pp* *mf* *p sub.* **D**

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *f* *pp* *mf* *p sub.*

Vla. *pizz.* *f* *pp* *mf* *p sub.*

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *pp* *mf* *p sub.*

62

Tbn.

p

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

67

Tbn.

mp

gliss

3

3

3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

E

72

Musical score for measures 72-76. The score includes parts for Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 72 features a Tbn. line with triplets and a dynamic marking of *f*. Measures 73-76 show the strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc.) with dynamics ranging from *f* to *p*.

77

Musical score for measures 77-80. The score includes parts for Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 77 features a Tbn. line with a triplet and a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measures 78-80 show the strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc.) with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

81

Musical score for measures 81-84. The score includes parts for Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 81 features a Tbn. line with a triplet and a dynamic marking of *sfz*. Measures 82-84 show the strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc.) with dynamics ranging from *p* to *pù f*.

85

Tbn. *fp* *ff* 3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

90

Tbn. 3 3 *gliss.*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

96

Tbn. *mf* *gliss.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. pizz.

F

Calmly
♩ = 60

99

Musical score for measures 99-103. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The instruments are Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The Tbn. part starts with a glissando and a triplet. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have pizzicato and arco markings. The Vla. part has arco and pizzicato markings. The Vc. part has pizzicato and arco markings. Dynamics include mp, mf, f, and più f.

104

Musical score for measures 104-106. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The instruments are Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The Tbn. part has a glissando and triplets. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have arco markings. The Vla. part has arco markings. The Vc. part has arco markings. Dynamics include p and arco.

107 ♩ = 140

Musical score for measures 107-110. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 140. The instruments are Tuba (Tbn.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.).

- Measure 107:** Tbn. starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 are silent. Vla. is silent. Vc. plays a half note G2.
- Measure 108:** Tbn. plays quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, G3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 are silent. Vla. is silent. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, A2, B2.
- Measure 109:** Tbn. plays quarter notes C3, B2, A2, G2. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 are silent. Vla. is silent. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2, E2, D2.
- Measure 110:** Tbn. plays a half note G2. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.

Dynamics: *mp* (measures 107-108), *mf* (measures 109-110), *f* (measures 110-111). Performance markings: *arco* (measures 107-108), *(pizz)* (measure 108), *arco* (measures 109-110).

111

Musical score for measures 111-113. The instruments are Tuba (Tbn.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.).

- Measure 111:** Tbn. plays quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.
- Measure 112:** Tbn. plays quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, G3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.
- Measure 113:** Tbn. plays quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.

114

Musical score for measures 114-116. The instruments are Tuba (Tbn.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.).

- Measure 114:** Tbn. plays quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.
- Measure 115:** Tbn. plays quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, G3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.
- Measure 116:** Tbn. plays quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play quarter notes G4, A4. Vla. plays quarter notes G3, F#3. Vc. plays quarter notes G2, F#2.

Tbn. *gliss.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cadenza

Tbn. *gliss.*

p *f*

Tbn. *ff* *mp* *gliss.*



Calmly
♩ = 70

Tbn. *gliss.* glissando to lowest possible note

Vln. 1 *mp con sord* *gliss.*

Vln. 2 *mp con sord* *gliss.*

Vla. *mp con sord*

Vc. *mp con sord* *gliss.* *mp espressivo*

Musical score for measures 123-125. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. In measure 123, the Tbn. part has a triplet of eighth notes (G2, A2, B2) marked *mp*. The Vln. 1 part has a melodic line of eighth notes. The Vln. 2 part has a sustained note with a hairpin. The Vla. part has a melodic line of eighth notes. The Vc. part has a glissando on a whole note (G2) marked *gliss.*.

Musical score for measures 126-128. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. In measure 126, the Tbn. part has a triplet of eighth notes (G2, A2, B2) marked *mp*. In measure 127, the Vln. 1 part has a melodic line with a hairpin. In measure 128, the Vln. 1 part has a melodic line with a hairpin marked *mf*. The Vln. 2 part has a sustained note with a hairpin. The Vla. part has a melodic line of eighth notes with glissandos marked *gliss.*. The Vc. part has a sustained note with a hairpin.

Musical score for measures 129-131. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. In measure 129, the Tbn. part has a triplet of eighth notes (G2, A2, B2) marked *mp*. In measure 130, the Tbn. part has a glissando on a whole note (G2) marked *gliss.*. The Vln. 1 part has a melodic line with a glissando on a whole note marked *gliss.*. The Vln. 2 part has a sustained note with a glissando on a whole note marked *gliss.*. The Vla. part has a melodic line of eighth notes. The Vc. part has a sustained note with a hairpin.

Playfully

$\text{♩} = 140$

132

Musical score for measures 132-135. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 132 starts with a *p* dynamic. The Tbn. part has a glissando. The strings play a rhythmic pattern. Measure 133 has dynamics *mp* and *senza sord*. Measure 134 has dynamics *mp* and *senza sord*. Measure 135 has dynamics *p* and *f* with a crescendo hairpin.

136

Musical score for measures 136-139. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 136 starts with a *f* dynamic. The Tbn. part has a *f* dynamic. The strings play a rhythmic pattern. Measure 137 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 138 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 139 has a *f* dynamic.

140

Musical score for measures 140-143. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 140 starts with a *f* dynamic. The Tbn. part has a *f* dynamic. The strings play a rhythmic pattern. Measure 141 has dynamics *mp* and *f*. Measure 142 has dynamics *mp* and *f*. Measure 143 has dynamics *mp* and *f* with a triplet of eighth notes.

144

Musical score for measures 144-147. The score is for five instruments: Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 144 features a Tbn. line with a glissando and a triplet. Vln. 1 has a *sfz* dynamic. Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. have rhythmic accompaniment.

148

Musical score for measures 148-151. The score continues with the same five instruments. Measure 148 has a Tbn. line with a long note and a triplet. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 have *p* dynamics. Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. have rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 151 features a Tbn. line with a triplet and a *f* dynamic.

H

152

Musical score for measures 152-155. The score continues with the same five instruments. Measure 152 has a Tbn. line with a long note. Vln. 1 has a *p sub.* dynamic. Vln. 2 has a *pizz.* dynamic. Vla. has a *pizz.* dynamic. Vc. has a *p* dynamic. Measure 153 has a Tbn. line with a long note. Vln. 1 has a *f* dynamic. Vln. 2 has a *p* dynamic. Vla. has a *p* dynamic. Vc. has a *p* dynamic. Measure 154 has a Tbn. line with a long note. Vln. 1 has a *f* dynamic. Vln. 2 has a *p* dynamic. Vla. has a *p* dynamic. Vc. has a *p* dynamic. Measure 155 has a Tbn. line with a long note. Vln. 1 has a *f* dynamic. Vln. 2 has a *p* dynamic. Vla. has a *p* dynamic. Vc. has a *p* dynamic.

Tbn. *mp dolce*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. arco *mf* *f*

Vc. arco *mf* *f*

Tbn.

Vln. 1 *mp* 3 *gliss.*

Vln. 2 *mp* 3

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Tbn.

Vln. 1 *gliss.* 3

Vln. 2 3 *gliss.* 3 3 3

Vla. 3

Vc. 3

167

Tbn. *mf*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *p sub.*

Vla. *gliss.* *p sub.*

Vc. *p sub.*

171

Tbn.

Vln. 1 *p sub.*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

174

Tbn. **I**

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *f* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vc. *f* *ff*

179

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

mp *f* *mp* *mp* *mp*

188

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

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

gliss. *gliss.*

193

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

f *f* *pizz.* *f* *mp* *mp*

attaca

Quasi Cadenza

II. Storm

♩ = 80

Trombone *sempre f*

Tbn. *p* *sfz*

Vln. 1 *p* *8va* *gliss.* *f* *pizz.*

Vln. 2 *p* *8va* *gliss.* *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *p* *8va* *gliss.* *f* *pizz.*

Vc. *f* *pizz.*

Tbn. *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains the first five staves of the score. The Trombone part starts with a half note, followed by eighth notes and triplets. The Tbn. part has a half note, a rest, and then eighth notes with triplets. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc.) play a glissando on the 8th octave, starting with a piano dynamic and ending with a forte dynamic and pizzicato. The second Tbn. staff continues with eighth notes and triplets, ending with a forte dynamic.

J Uneasy
♩ = 64

Tbn. *mp*

Vln. 1 *mp* *arco* *gliss.*

Vln. 2 *mp* *arco*

Vla. (pizz) *mp*

Vc. *mp* *arco*

Detailed description: This system contains the next five staves of the score. The Tbn. part plays eighth notes with a mezzo-piano dynamic. The Vln. 1 part plays eighth notes with a mezzo-piano dynamic and arco, followed by a glissando. The Vln. 2 part plays eighth notes with a mezzo-piano dynamic and arco. The Vla. part plays eighth notes with a mezzo-piano dynamic and pizzicato. The Vc. part plays a sustained chord with a mezzo-piano dynamic and arco.

15 **poco meno mosso**

Tbn. *mf* 3 6 6

Vln. 1 *mf* *pizz.*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

20

Tbn. 6 6 6 6 arco

Vln. 1 *p* arco

Vln. 2 *p* arco

Vla. pizz *p* arco

Vc. pizz *p* arco

24

Tbn. 3 *f* *mf*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

mp 6 6

mp 6 6

mp 6 6

mf

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

f 3 3

f 5 5

f 3

f

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

p *f*

3 3

5

3

6

6

vd

vd

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

ff *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

f *f* *f*

L cadenza

Tbn.

Tbn.

p *pp*

Tbn. *mp*

Tbn. *mf* *p*

52 M *cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pizz.* *pp*

Vc.

56

Tbn. *mp*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *arco* *mp*

Vc.

60 N *con alcuna licenza*

Tbn. *ff* *mp*

Vln. 1 *f* *ff* pizz.

Vln. 2 *f* *ff* pizz.

Vla. *f* *ff* pizz.

Vc. *f* *ff* pizz.

64

Tbn. *p* *f*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

67

Tbn. *mp*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Tbn. *ff*

Vln. 1 arco *ff*

Vln. 2 arco *ff*

Vla. arco *ff*

Vc. arco *ff*

0

Tbn. *p*

Tbn. *f*

Tbn. *p* *ff* *sfz*

molto accelerando

Tbn. *sfz*

Vln. 1 *ff* gliss. 6

Vln. 2 *ff* gliss. 6

Vla. *ff* gliss. 6

Vc. *ff*

Frantically
♩ = 60



Tbn.

Vln. 1
p *cresc poco a poco*

Vln. 2
p *cresc poco a poco*

Vla.
p *cresc poco a poco*

Vc.

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Tbn.

Vln. 1
f

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

80

Musical score for measures 80-81. The score is divided into two systems by a double bar line. The instruments are Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 80 features a Tbn. part with notes and accents, and a Vc. part with chords and accents. Measures 81-82 feature Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla. parts with melodic lines and accents. Dynamic markings include *f* and *ff*.

82

Musical score for measures 82-85. The score is divided into two systems by a double bar line. The instruments are Tbn., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 82 features a Tbn. part with notes and accents, and a Vc. part with chords and accents. Measures 83-85 feature Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla. parts with melodic lines and accents. Dynamic markings include *fff* and *f*. There are also trill markings in the Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts.

III. Glistening

Tranquil
♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 1-5. The score is for Trombone, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked as Tranquil with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The Trombone part is mostly silent. Violin 1 and Violin 2 enter in measure 4 with pizzicato notes. Viola and Violoncello play a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 1. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.

6

Musical score for measures 6-10. The score is for Trombone (Tbn.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Trombone part is silent. Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello play a melodic line with triplets. Dynamics include *p*.

11

Musical score for measures 11-15. The score is for Trombone (Tbn.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Trombone part is silent. Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello play a melodic line with triplets. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *pizz.*. The word "arco" is written above the strings in measures 12-14.

16

Tbn. *f* *p* *mp*
arco

Vln. 1 *p*
arco

Vln. 2 *p*
arco

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* *mf*

20

Tbn. *f*

Vln. 1 *mp* *f*

Vln. 2 *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *f*

25

Tbn. *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Q

30

Tbn. *mp*

Vln. 1 *f* *pizz.* *arco*

Vln. 2 *f* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *f* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *f* *mp* *arco*

34

Tbn. *f* *pizz.* *arco* *mp* **R**

Vln. 1 *f* *mf* *mp*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mf* *mp*

38

Tbn. *f* *mp*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* *mp*

42

Tbn. *f* *mp*

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *mp*

Vla. *p* *f* *mp*

Vc. *p* *f* *mp*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.*

46

Tbn. *p* *f* *mp*

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *mp*

Vla. *p* *f* *mp*

Vc. *p* *f* *mp*

arco *arco* *arco*

arco *arco* *arco*

arco *arco* *arco*

arco *arco* *arco*

52

Tbn. *ff* *p sub.* *sfz mp*

Vln. 1 *f* *p sub.* *sfz mp*

Vln. 2 *f* *p sub.* *sfz mp*

Vla. *f* *p sub.* *sfz mp*

Vc. *f* *p sub.* *sfz mp*

S

56

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

mp

mp

ff

61

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

opt. 8^{va}

mf

ff

ff

f

ff

f

mp

ff

f

mp

ff

f

65

Tbn.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

f

p

pp

ff

pp

ff

pp

ff

p

pizz.

pp

arco

ff

mp

pp

ff