

The Question

For Solo Violin and Electronics

Aileen Sweeney

(2019)



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Programme Note

The Question by Theo Dorgan was featured in a series of 20 poems by various authors on the theme of Climate Change by The Guardian.

When the great ships come back,
and come they will,
when they stand in the sky
all over the world,
candescent suns by day,
radiant cathedrals by night,
how shall we answer the question:

What have you done
with what was given to you,
what have you done with
the blue, beautiful world?

Theo Dorgan

Duration

c. 8 minutes.

Performance Directions

The violin should be amplified and reverb should be added to the violin throughout. A click track will be provided for performance.

Glissandi should be played slowly, lasting the full duration of the notated note allowing all notes in between to be heard. The glissandi should not be broken by a bow change in order to create the illusion of a continuous note. Glissandi should always be played with a small crescendo, to sound as though you are leaning into the note unless specified otherwise.

Wavy Lines: This shows that a note is to be played, randomly fluctuating between Sul Pont and Normale to create a shifting overtone effect for the length of the wavy line.

Tremolandos: The tremolandos are to be unmeasured and the markings are used to show the general change in speed.

Sul Pont Abbreviation: **SP.**

Sul Tasto Abbreviation: **ST.**

Normale Abbreviation: **Norm**

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The Question

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♩ = 80

Violin

Electronics:
Organ/
Sine Tone Pad/
Flutes

pp

-31 cents

Detailed description: This system covers measures 1 to 4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The Violin part consists of whole rests in all four measures. The Electronics part (Organ/Sine Tone Pad/Flutes) plays a sustained chord. In measure 1, the chord is in 4/4 time. In measure 2, it changes to 3/4 time. In measure 3, it returns to 4/4 time and includes a glissando of -31 cents. In measure 4, it changes to 6/4 time.

5

Vln.

Elctns.

+4 cents

mp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 5 to 7. The Violin part has whole rests. The Electronics part plays a sustained chord. In measure 5, the chord is in 6/4 time. In measure 6, it changes to 5/4 time and includes a glissando of +4 cents. In measure 7, it returns to 4/4 time.

8

**Tentatively
at first.**

Vln.

Elctns.

mp

gliss.

gliss.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 8 to 12. The Violin part plays a melodic line starting in 4/4 time, moving to 5/4 in measure 9, 4/4 in measure 10, 5/4 in measure 11, and 6/4 in measure 12. It includes glissandos in measures 10 and 11. The Electronics part has rests in all measures, indicated by slashes.

26

Vln. *mp* *p* *gliss.*

Elctns.

29

Vln. *f* *intense vibrato* **S.P/Norm**

Elctns.

-31 cents

33

Vln. *gliss.* **S.P/Norm** *gliss.*

Elctns.

A (Harm. Gliss)

37

Vln. *p* *non vibrato*

Elctns.

-31 cents

+ 2 cents

40

Vln.

Elctns.

42

Vln.

Elctns.

Like an echo.

pp light vibrato

gliss.

46

Vln.

Elctns.

gliss.

Norm. → Extremely Sul Pont.

49

Vln.

Elctns.

Pages have been removed from this perusal score. If you would like to see the full score, feel free to get in touch on aileensweeney5@gmail.com