

Siku

for Solo Cello

Aileen Sweeney

(2020)



Aileen
Sweeney

Programme Note:

Siku meaning "Sea-Ice" in Greenlandic, was written in collaboration with William Harcourt, a PhD student of Glaciology at The University of St. Andrew's.

The ice sheets are vital and act as a protective shield over the earth, reflecting excess heat into space and keeping the planet cool. The melting (calving) of these glaciers is accelerating due to global warming and is contributing to the alarming rise of sea levels worldwide.

William collected a vast range of field recordings from various scientists studying glaciers worldwide. The piece takes influence from the vast array of different sounds captured by the scientists studying the glaciers and the surrounding derelict landscapes.

Duration

c. 5 minutes.

© Copyright 2020 Aileen Sweeney

All rights in the work are reserved to Aileen Sweeney. Copying, performance and distribution of the work or any part thereof without the permission of the copyright holder is prohibited.

aileensweeney5@gmail.com

+44(0)7807785060

Performance Directions:

Reverb: The piece should be performed/recorded with a heavy amount of reverb added to the cello.

Scordatura: The C string of the cello should be tuned down to a Bb for the duration of the piece.

Directional Arrows: Move seamlessly from one bowing technique to another.

Bowing Abbreviations:

Sul Pont: S.P

Sul Tasto: S.T

Norm: Normale

Harmonics: Harmonics are written at sounding pitch.

Harmonic Trills: Play the lower note whilst trilling to the harmonic notated with a diamond note head.

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.

Acknowledgements:

We are extremely grateful to the very generous glaciology community who have helped to shape the final composition by offering audio and video footage from glacier environments. In particular, we would like to thank the following people who kindly shared audio/video files of glaciers:

- Kate Winter (Northumbria University)
- Jason Amundson (University of Alaska Southeast)
- Steven Massey (Freezeabox)
- Ella Gilbert (British Antarctic Survey)
- Steve Garrett (Guitarist <https://www.stevegarrettguitar.com>)
- Martin Sharp (University of Alberta)
- Penelope How (Asiaq Greenland Survey)
- Gwenn Flowers (Simon Fraser University)
- Seelye Martin (University of Washington)
- Evgeniy Podolskiy (Hokkaido University)
- Chris Carr (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
- Elizabeth Hebel (MICA Guides, CU Boulder)
- Tanuj Shukla (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)
- Eef van Dongen (ETH Zurich)
- Stefan Mertl (Mertl Research)
- Rachel Carr (Newcastle University)
- Matthew Zeh (University of Texas)
- Markus Strudl (AVT)
- Timothy Bartholomaeus (University of Idaho)

Siku

♩ = 55

Reflective, bright and expansive.
Freely, with a feeling of space.

Aileen Sweeney

Sempre L.V.

Violoncello

pp *p* *mp*

Vc.

4

S.P. \longrightarrow Molto S.P. \longrightarrow S.P.

p brittle sounding

Vc.

8

Norm.

mp cantabile mf mp

Vc.

13

Trill slowly \longrightarrow before gaining speed. \longrightarrow Molto S.P.

p growing intensity and harshness mf ff

Vc.

18

mp

2

Norm.
Non vib.

Slight bow
overpressure.
Gritty sound.

22

Vc.

mf < *fp* ————— *growing intensity,
adding more vibrato* ————— *f*

Non vib.

28

Vc.

mp more fragile

32

Vc.

p

S.T. Non Vib.
Light bow pressure. (Harm. Gliss.)

37

Vc.

ppp *whispy
and fragile* ————— *mp*

42

Vc.

p *airy* ————— *pp*

A

47

Vc.

p ————— *mp* *p* ————— *mp*

50

Vc.

S.P ————— **Molto S.P** ————— **S.P**

p brittle sounding

53

Vc.

Norm. (Harm. Gliss.)

mp ————— *cantabile* ————— *mf*

59

Vc.

Light bow pressure.

p whispy and faint

62

Vc.

S.T **Norm.**

mp more present *mp* espressivo

67

Vc.

mf *mp* *mf*

69

Vc.

*cantabile,
growing in intensity*

f ***fp***

Molto vib.

B

Not strictly rhythmical.

73

Vc.

ff *with freedom and rubato*

75

Vc.

77

Vc.

rall.

79

Vc.

winding down

81

Vc.

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