

Saltscap e

for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion



cover art by Sakurako Kanemitsu

Ryan Suleiman

2015

Saltscap e

Commissioned by and composed for Citywater

2015

approx. 15'

cover art by Sakurako Kanemitsu

Program Note

In the summer of 2014 I drove with my sister from Colorado to California, and on our way we stopped to marvel at the great Salt Flats of Utah, which are the remains of an ancient lake. The landscape is striking and beautiful in a desolate, otherworldly kind of way. As I stared across the seemingly endless, shapeless white terrain, mountains on the horizon, I was struck by both the immense scale of time evident in such a sight as well as its tremendous spiritual power. In such places, the earth is felt as a majestic ancient life-force, fierce and powerful. Its staggering depth and its 4.5 billion years put our meager human existence into perspective.

This piece attempts to evoke some of these feelings - the spirituality, intensity, and sheer majesty of the earth in its long age. I hope it will also inspire listeners to foster a greater respect for it amidst the current environmental catastrophe we are facing today. *Saltscap e* was commissioned by and composed for Citywater. (R.S.)

Performance Notes

Glissandi vs Portamenti

Glissandi (*gliss.*) should be played in such a way that the starting pitch is left immediately and an even gliding sound is heard for the full rhythmic duration of the note.

Portamenti (*port.*) should be played more in the "Romantic" style - the first pitch is held until the last moment, then the note glides to the second pitch.

If a line is seen with neither indication, assume the previous technique. In both cases, the pitches of the starting and ending notes should be played as accurately as possible.

List of Percussion Instruments

crotales, glockenspiel, vibraphone, marimba, triangle, suspended cymbal, 3 woodblocks (low, middle, high), tam-tam (small or mid-size), bass drum (kick). Beaters: yarn (y.b.), metal or brass (m.b.), plastic (p.b.), tam-tam.

Instrumentation

flute (doubling on picc.)

Bb clarinet

violin

cello

piano

percussion (see above)

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Saltscape

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Musical score for measures 11-14. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Piano (Pno.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Cymbal (Cym.), and Bass Drum (B.D.).

- Fl.:** Rests in measures 11-12, then plays a melodic line in 4/4 time starting in measure 13.
- Cl.:** Rests in measures 11-12, then plays a melodic line in 4/4 time starting in measure 13, marked *ff*.
- Vln.:** Rests in measures 11-12, then plays a melodic line in 4/4 time starting in measure 13, marked *ff*. Includes glissando markings (*gliss.*) in measure 14.
- Vc.:** Rests in measures 11-12, then plays a melodic line in 4/4 time starting in measure 13, marked *ff*. Includes glissando markings (*gliss.*) in measure 14.
- Pno.:** Plays a rhythmic accompaniment of chords in 3/4 time, marked *ff* and *f*. Includes a *ped.* marking in measure 11 and a *both hands* marking in measure 13.
- Vib.:** Rests throughout.
- Cym.:** Plays a sustained cymbal in 3/4 time, marked *ff*, with a *y. b. >* marking in measure 11.
- B.D.:** Plays a rhythmic pattern in 3/4 time, marked *ff*.



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Musical score for measures 15-18. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Piano (Pno.), Cymbal (Cym.), Wood Block (WB.), and Bass Drum (B.D.).

- Fl.:** Plays a melodic line in 3/4 time, marked *ff*.
- Cl.:** Rests throughout.
- Vln.:** Plays a melodic line in 3/4 time, marked *ff*. Includes glissando markings (*gliss.*) in measure 18.
- Vc.:** Plays a melodic line in 3/4 time, marked *ff*. Includes glissando markings (*gliss.*) in measure 18.
- Pno.:** Plays a rhythmic accompaniment of chords in 3/4 time, marked *ff* and *f*. Includes a *ped.* marking in measure 15 and a *both hands* marking in measure 17.
- Cym.:** Plays a sustained cymbal in 3/4 time, marked *ff*, with a *y. b. >* marking in measure 15.
- WB.:** Rests throughout, with a *sempre y. b.* marking in measure 18.
- B.D.:** Plays a rhythmic pattern in 3/4 time, marked *ff*.

A

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FL. *mf* *ff* *mp* *legato*

Cl. *mf* *ff* *mp* *legato*

Vln. *mf* *ff* *mp* *legato*

Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *ff* *mp* *legato*

Pno. *mf* *ff* *mp* *legato*
meno / no pedale

Tri. *mf*

W.B. *ff*

T-t. *ff*

B.D. *ff*



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FL. *p* *f* *p*

Cl. *mp* *f* *p*

Vln. *mf* *mp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

Pno. *p* *f* *p*
scd.

Vib. *f*

Tri. *m. b.* *p* *m. b.* *mp*

Cym. *p* *(y. b.)*

W.B. *mp*

B.D. *p*

