decketh joy, water destroy

for soprano, flute, clarinet, harp, cello, double bass, & percussion

music by Ryan Suleiman

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Performance Notes

Lighting: It is preferred that the performance includes a small number of lighting effects, but a performance without them is acceptable. Lighting directions are included boxed text on p. 3, 19, 24, 26, and 31.

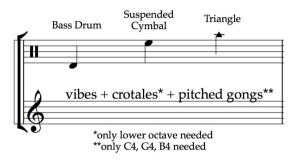
Conductor: the piece may be performed with or without a conductor. However, rehearsal K onward should not be conducted. See page 26.

The soprano reads directly from the score.

Any questions, especially regarding the notation in rehearsal F & J-K, may directed to the composer.

Version for piano & soprano: a version of this song for soprano and piano with the same rehearsal and measure numbers is also available. Inquire with the composer for more information.

Percussion Key / Instrument List

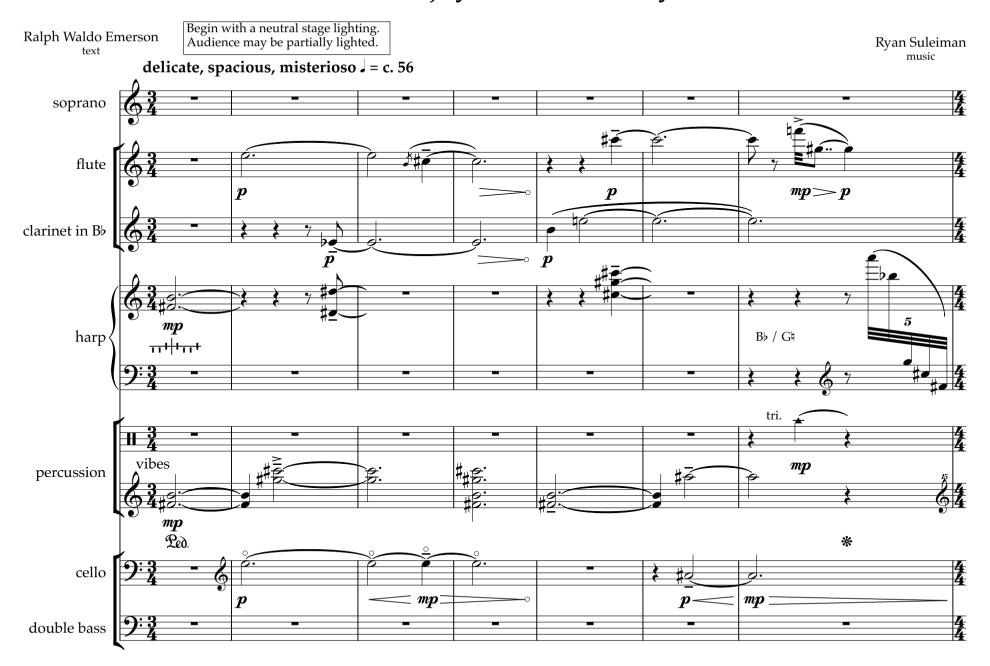


Program Notes

Water has always fascinated artists. It mesmerizes through the intrinsic beauty of its physicality and its complex relationship with us humans. In our own time, we can be awestruck by its beauty and cognizant of the destruction it increasingly brings in this century, each year more than the last. The text is Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem, "Water":

The water understands
Civilization well;
It wets my foot, but prettily,
It chills my life, but wittily,
It is not disconcerted,
It is not broken-hearted:
Well used, it decketh joy,
Adorneth, doubleth joy:
Ill used, it will destroy,
In perfect time and measure
With a face of golden pleasure
Elegantly destroy.

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