

The Worlds Revolve

Elena Ruehr

Piano Quintet

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PROGRAM NOTES

These four movements for string quartet and piano take their titles from T.S. Elliot's fourth Prelude. This poem has been a favorite of mine since I was a teenager, evoking in the last few lines something that seems both ancient and prescient. The first movement, *The Worlds Revolve*, has a melody that actually mimics the rhythm of the first stanza and evokes an ancient tune. *Like Ancient Women* uses block chords to create a quiet grandeur. *Gathering Fuel* is a virtuosic flurry, and *In Vacant Lots* evokes an ancient city, now empty. Composed for Donald Berman and the Borromeo String Quartet, the work is warmly dedicated to David Deveau.

—Elena Ruehr

INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Piano

Duration: 17:00

Elena Ruehr (b. 1963)

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Dedicated to David Deveau,
Artistic Director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival,
Rockport, Massachusetts

The Worlds Revolve

for Piano Quintet

Elena Ruehr (BMI)

I. The Worlds Revolve

Allegretto ♩ = 132

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

ppp

ppp

Allegretto ♩ = 132

RH louder than LH

Piano

pp

f ma non troppo

8vb - 1 v.

(heavy pedal)

3

4

7

10

3

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13

Musical score for measures 13-15. The score is written for a grand piano with four staves: two for the right hand (treble clef) and two for the left hand (bass clef). Measures 13 and 14 are mostly empty, with only a few notes in the left hand. Measure 15 contains a complex melodic line in the right hand with triplets and a descending line in the left hand.

16

Musical score for measures 16-18. The score is written for a grand piano with four staves. Measures 16 and 17 are mostly empty. Measure 18 contains a complex melodic line in the right hand with triplets and a descending line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in measure 18.

19

Musical score for measures 19-21. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left Hand). Measures 19 and 20 show vocal staves with rests and piano accompaniment. Measure 21 features a vocal line with a triplet of eighth notes and a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* and a triplet marking '3'.

22

Musical score for measures 22-24. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left Hand). Measures 22 and 23 show vocal staves with rests and piano accompaniment. Measure 24 features a vocal line with a melodic phrase and a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *ppp* and *mf*.

25

Musical score for measures 25-27. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are treble clef, and the last two are bass clef. Dynamics include *pp*, *p*, and *poco f*. The first two staves have long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes. The third and fourth staves have notes with stems. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

28

Musical score for measures 28-30. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are treble clef, and the last two are bass clef. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*. The first two staves have notes with stems. The third and fourth staves have notes with stems and include markings for *pizz.* and *arco*. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

II. Like Ancient Women

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 132$

Violin I
f

Violin II
f

Viola
f

Violoncello
f

Piano

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 132$

4

8

Musical score for measures 8-11. It consists of four staves: three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and one piano accompaniment staff. The piano part is marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The vocal lines feature quarter and eighth notes with various accidentals. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving bass lines. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

12

Musical score for measures 12-15. It consists of four staves: three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and one piano accompaniment staff. The piano part includes chords and moving bass lines. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

15 ♩ = c. 132

Musical score for measures 15-16. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of five staves. The first staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 15 with a dynamic marking of *mp* and an 8-measure slur. The second staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 16 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The third staff (alto clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 16 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 16 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The fifth staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 16 with a dynamic marking of *p*.

♩ = c. 132

Piano accompaniment for measures 15-16. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of two staves. The upper staff (treble clef) is empty. The lower staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* and an 8-measure slur.

17

Musical score for measures 17-18. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of five staves. The first staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 17 with a dynamic marking of *p* and a 3-measure slur. The second staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 18 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The third staff (alto clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 17 with a dynamic marking of *mp* and an 8-measure slur. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 18 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The fifth staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 18 with a dynamic marking of *p*.

Piano accompaniment for measures 17-18. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of two staves. The upper staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 17 with a dynamic marking of *mf* and an 8-measure slur. The lower staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line starting in measure 18 with a dynamic marking of *mf*.

This musical score page contains measures 23 through 29. It is organized into two systems of staves. The first system (measures 23-24) includes a vocal line (treble clef, 4/4), a piano line (treble and bass clefs, 4/4), and a double bass line (bass clef, 4/4). Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The second system (measures 25-29) includes a vocal line (treble clef, 3/4), a piano line (treble and bass clefs, 3/4), and a double bass line (bass clef, 3/4). Dynamics include *mf*. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Copying is illegal only" is overlaid across the entire page.

73

pp

pp

arco
pp

arco
pp

15^{ma}

III. Gathering Fuel

$\text{♩} = 112$

poco rit.

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

$\text{♩} = 112$

poco rit.

Piano

3 *a tempo*

pp

pp

pp

a tempo

pp

5

p

p

p

p

11

Musical score for measures 11 and 12. The score is written for five staves: four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and one piano accompaniment staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4, which changes to 2/4 at the end of measure 12. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte). The piano part features a melodic line with slurs and a bass line with a few notes.

13

Musical score for measures 13 through 16. The score is written for five staves: four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and one piano accompaniment staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4, which changes to 3/4 at the end of measure 14 and back to 2/4 at the end of measure 16. The dynamic marking is *ff* (fortissimo). The piano part features a complex texture with chords and a melodic line in the right hand, and a bass line with some rests.

213

Musical score for measures 213-215. It consists of five staves. The top four staves are for string instruments (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello), and the bottom two staves are for the piano. The music is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with triplets and a piano accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines. A large watermark 'Copyrighted material' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

IV. In Vacant Lots

♩ = 112 ♩ = 132

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Piano

Musical score for the section 'IV. In Vacant Lots'. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Piano. The tempo is marked with ♩ = 112 and ♩ = 132. The music is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *ff* and *poco f*. The score contains triplets and various rhythmic patterns. A large watermark 'Copyrighted material' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

4

ff *pp*

ff *pp*

ff *pp*

ff *pp*

pp *mp* *f* *ff*

7

mp *f* *ff*

mp *f* *ff*

mp *f* *ff*

mp *f* *ff*

ff *8va*

10

Musical score for measures 10-12. It features four staves for strings and a grand staff for piano. The piano part includes an 8va section. Dynamics range from *ff* to *mp*. A large watermark "Review Only" is overlaid on the page.

13

Musical score for measures 13-15. It features four staves for strings and a grand staff for piano. Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*. A large watermark "Review Only" is overlaid on the page.

16 ♩ = 84

Musical score for measures 16-21. It consists of four staves: three treble clefs and one bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 84. The dynamic marking *mp* is present. The music features a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staves, with various rests and notes.

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-21. It consists of two staves: a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 84. The dynamic marking *p* is present. The accompaniment is primarily chordal, with some moving lines in the bass.

22

Musical score for measures 22-27. It consists of four staves: three treble clefs and one bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamic marking *mp* is present. The music continues with melodic and bass lines, including some rests and slurs.

Piano accompaniment for measures 22-27. It consists of two staves: a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The accompaniment continues with chordal textures and some melodic fragments in the bass.

28

Musical score for measures 28-33. It consists of four staves: two vocal staves (treble and bass clefs) and two piano accompaniment staves (treble and bass clefs). The music is in 4/4 time. The vocal parts feature melodic lines with slurs and ties. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the vocal staves.

Piano accompaniment for measures 28-33. It consists of two staves: treble and bass clefs. The music features chords and arpeggiated figures. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. It consists of four staves: two vocal staves (treble and bass clefs) and two piano accompaniment staves (treble and bass clefs). The music is in 4/4 time. The vocal parts feature melodic lines with slurs and ties. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the vocal staves.

Piano accompaniment for measures 34-38. It consists of two staves: treble and bass clefs. The music features chords and arpeggiated figures. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

38

Musical score for measures 38-41. It consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The first two staves have a 4/4 time signature, which changes to 3/4 for measures 39 and 40. The music features melodic lines with slurs and dynamic markings of *p* and *mp*. The bottom two staves provide harmonic support with chords and bass lines.

Piano accompaniment for measures 38-41. It consists of two staves: a treble clef and a bass clef. The music features complex chordal textures with slurs and dynamic markings of *p* and *mp*. The bass line includes an 8va marking at the end of measure 41.

♩ = 112

42

accel.

Musical score for measures 42-45. It consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is primarily chordal with dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*. The tempo is marked as *accel.*

Piano accompaniment for measures 42-45. It consists of two staves: a treble clef and a bass clef. The music features dense chordal textures with dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*. The tempo is marked as *accel.*

(8vb) - - - - -