

The Stream (Admonitions)
for voice and percussion ensemble
on a text from the Journals of Henry David Thoreau

by Kyle Gann
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The Stream (Admonitions)

Percussion: crotales (F#,G,A,B), vibraphone, triangle, wood block, large and small cymbals, large and small tam-tams, tenor drum, bass drum

I wrote this piece in April of 1987, totally forgot about it, and ran across it in my manuscripts 27 years later. The text is a fabulous paragraph from Thoreau's Journal for July 16, 1850:

Do a little more of that work which you have sometime confessed to be good... Do what you reprove yourself for not doing. Know that you are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with yourself without reason... [C]ultivate the tree which you have found to bear fruit in your soil. Regard not your past failures nor successes. All the past is equally a failure and a success... Have you not a pretty good thinking faculty...? Does not the stream still rise to its fountainhead in you? Go to the devil and come back again. Dispose of evil... Die, if you can. Depart... If you know of any risk to run, run it. If you don't know of any, enjoy confidence. Do not trouble yourself to be religious. You will never get a thank you for it... Do not entertain doubts if they are not agreeable to you. Send them to the tavern... Do not read the newspapers. Improve every opportunity to be melancholy. Be as melancholy as you can be, and note the result. Rejoice with fate... Do not engage to find things as you think they are. Do what nobody can do for you. Omit to do everything else.

The piece needed some revision; in particular, the vocal line was too slow, and I had too timidly omitted too much of the text, so it was easy to speed up the vocal phrases and insert more of the text in the gaps that resulted. Cymbals and tam-tams should be hit with soft mallets, and all percussion sounds should be allowed to ring.

Voice: work which you have some - time con fessed to be good Do what you re-prove your-self
 Crot.:
 Vib.:
 Tri.:
 W.B.:
 S Cym.:
 L Cym.:
 T.-t.:
 T.-t. *p*:
 T. D. *p*:
 B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice: — for not do-ing_ Know that you are nei - ther sa-tis-fied_ nor dis-sa-tis-fied_____ with your-self

Crot.: [Musical notation for Crochet]

Vib.: [Musical notation for Vibraphone]

Tri.: [Musical notation for Triangle]

W.B.: [Musical notation for Woodblock]

S Cym.: [Musical notation for Small Cymbal]

L Cym.: [Musical notation for Large Cymbal]

T.-t.: [Musical notation for Tom-tom]

T.-t.: [Musical notation for Tom-tom]

T. D.: [Musical notation for Tom Drum]

B. D.: [Musical notation for Bass Drum]

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice

with-out rea - son.____ Cul - ti - vate the tree_ which you have found to bear fruit in your soil.____

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice

Re - gard not your past fail-ures nor suc-ces-ses_ All the past_ is e - qual - ly a

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice

fail - ure and a suc - cess. Have you not a pret - ty good think - ing fa - cul - ty? Does not the stream

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice

still rise _____ to its foun-tain - head _____ in you? Go to the de-vil _____ and come back

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice

 ___ a-gain. Dis-pose of e-vil. Die if you can. De-part. If you know___ of a-ny risk

Cro.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

Voice

_____ to run run it. If you don't know of a-ny, en-joy con - fi-dence.

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

65

Voice

Do not trou-ble your - self__ to be re - li - gious. You will ne-ver get__ a thank - you__ for it. Do

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The image shows a page of a musical score for a piece titled "The Stream (Admonitions)". The page number "10" is in the top left corner. The score begins at measure 65. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features two triplet markings over the first and fifth measures. The lyrics are: "Do not trou-ble your - self__ to be re - li - gious. You will ne-ver get__ a thank - you__ for it. Do". The accompaniment includes a Crotonal (Crot.) part, a Vibraphone (Vib.) part, and a percussion section with staves for Triangle (Tri.), Wood Block (W.B.), Snare Cymbal (S Cym.), Large Cymbal (L Cym.), Tom-toms (T.-t.), Tom Drum (T. D.), and Bass Drum (B. D.). The percussion parts are mostly rhythmic patterns of notes and rests.

The Stream (Admonitions)

72

Voice

not en-ter-tain_ doubts_ if they are not a-gree-ab-le to you_ Send them to the ta-vern.

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The musical score is written for a voice part and a percussion ensemble. The voice part is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins at measure 72 with the lyrics 'not en-ter-tain_ doubts_ if they are not a-gree-ab-le to you_ Send them to the ta-vern.' The melody features two triplet markings over the first and fourth measures. The percussion ensemble includes a Crotonal (Crot.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Triangle (Tri.), Wood Block (W.B.), Snare Drum (S Cym.), Tom-toms (L Cym., T.-t.), and Drums (T. D., B. D.). The percussion parts are primarily rhythmic accompaniment, with some melodic lines on the Vibraphone and Snare Drum.

The Stream (Admonitions)

79

Voice

Do not read the news-pa-pers. Im-prove ev-ry op-por-tu-ni-ty to be me-lan-cho-ly.

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The musical score is for a piece titled "The Stream (Admonitions)". It features a vocal line and a full orchestral accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Do not read the news-pa-pers. Im-prove ev-ry op-por-tu-ni-ty to be me-lan-cho-ly." The score includes a variety of musical ornaments such as triplets and quintuplets. The orchestration includes strings (Violins, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses), woodwinds (Flutes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Trumpets, Trombones), and percussion (Cymbals, Triangle, Snare Drum, Tom-toms, and Bass Drum).

The Stream (Admonitions)

86

Voice

Be as me-lan-cho - ly as you can be and note the re - sult. — Re-joice with fate. Do not en - gage —

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The Stream (Admonitions)

94

Voice

_____ to find things as you think they are... Do what no-bo-dy can do for you.____

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

The image shows a page of a musical score for a piece titled "The Stream (Admonitions)". The page number is 14. The score is for a voice and a full orchestra. The voice part is in the top staff, with lyrics: "_____ to find things as you think they are... Do what no-bo-dy can do for you.____". The lyrics are underlined. The voice part has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). There are three triplet markings over the notes "as you think they are..." and "Do what no-bo-dy can do for you.____". The orchestral parts are arranged in a grand staff format. The instruments are: Crotonal (Crot.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Triangle (Tri.), Water Drum (W.B.), Snare Cymbal (S Cym.), Large Cymbal (L Cym.), Tom-tom (T.-t.), Tom-tom (T.-t.), Tom Drum (T. D.), and Bass Drum (B. D.). The orchestral parts are in the same key signature and time signature as the voice part. The score is written in a standard musical notation style.

The Stream (Admonitions)

(or Ah...)

101

Voice: O - mit to do ev-ry-thing else. mm mm
 (Musical notation for Voice, Crotonal, Vibraphone, Triangle, Water Drum, Snare Drum, Cymbals, and Bass Drum)

The score consists of ten staves. The top staff is for the Voice, with lyrics 'O - mit to do ev-ry-thing else.' and dynamic markings 'mm' and 'mm'. The second staff is for the Crotonal (Crot.). The third staff is for the Vibraphone (Vib.). The remaining seven staves (Tri., W.B., S Cym., L Cym., T.-t., T.-t., T. D., B. D.) are for a percussion ensemble. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#).

The Stream (Admonitions)

109

Voice

Crot.

Vib.

Tri.

W.B.

S Cym.

L Cym.

T.-t.

T.-t.

T. D.

B. D.

mm

The musical score for page 16 of 'The Stream (Admonitions)' features a voice part and a full percussion ensemble. The voice part begins at measure 109 with a melodic line in the treble clef, marked with two triplet markings. The percussion ensemble includes Crotonal, Vibraphone, Triangle, Water Drum, Snare Cymbal, Large Cymbal, Tom-toms, Tom Drum, and Bass Drum. The score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). A 'mm' marking is present below the voice staff.

The Stream (Admonitions)

115

Score for *The Stream (Admonitions)*. The score includes parts for Voice, Crotonal (Crot.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Triangle (Tri.), Wood Block (W.B.), Snare Cymbal (S Cym.), Low Cymbal (L Cym.), Tom-toms (T.-t.), Tom Drum (T. D.), and Bass Drum (B. D.). The music is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The voice part begins at measure 115 and includes two triplet markings. The percussion parts are marked with specific rhythmic notations, including accents and slurs.

The Stream (Admonitions)

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