Darkness is Not Well Lit

Nicole Lizée
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Darkness Is Not Well Lit
(2016)

Composed for Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire

Nicole Lizée's Darkness Is Not Well Lit was commissioned as part of the Kronos Performing Arts Association's Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire, which is made possible by a group of adventurous partners, including Carnegie Hall and many others.

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www.kronosquartet.org

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Darkness is Not Well Lit
Film Noir for string quartet

Instrumentation

Violin 1
  + medium sized electric fan
  + parchment paper
Violin 2
  + medium sized electric fan
Viola
  + medium sized electric fan
Violoncello
  + medium sized electric fan
  + parchment paper

The score is notated in concert pitch

Duration: ca. 4’00”

The work was commissioned by Kronos Quartet for Fifty For the Future, 2016
dedicated to David, John, Hank, Sunny

Performance Notes

Fans:
  household model - floor or stand, wire (not box model)
  should have at least two speeds available (highest speed should be quite fast)
  fans should be positioned facing player and in such a way that sound projects into/through them
  amplification is recommended (with mic placed on the back side of fan to capture effect)

Lighting:
  Optional: small LED lights can be secured to front side of fan to create strobe effect
  Shadows, lighting and fog in film noir style are encouraged

Due to windy conditions parts may need to be secured to the stands.
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N. Lizée

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Vocals

Viola

Cello

Vocals

Violoncello

Fan ON
High speed

Sing pitches (in any register)
"Ahh" (Ossia: 'La') - breathy

Project sound through fan (as much as possible)
Con sord.

Fan ON
High speed

Sing pitches (in any register)
"Ahh" (Ossia: 'La') - breathy

Project sound through fan (as much as possible)
Con sord.

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Project sound through fan
Molto espressivo

(Allow string to vibrate through rests)
Take parchment paper

Parchment paper
Rub paper in sync with Vln 2 (tremps should be rapid, 16ths should be short, crisp)

(Blend with Vln 2)

Sync with Vln 1 (parchment paper)
(Tremps should be rapid)

= 69

Fan slower speed

Parchment paper
*White noise (no pitch) - in sync with low G - dynamic mf*
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Violin 1
+ Medium Electric Fan
+ Parchment Paper
(see performance notes)

\( \frac{1}{4} = 69 \)

(Vc on) \( \frac{1}{4} \) (Vc starts) \( \frac{1}{4} \) (Vla)

Project sound through fan
Con sord. Molto espressivo
(Allow string to vibrate through rests)

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\[ \sum q = 69 \]

Parchment paper
Rub paper in sync with Vln 2 (tremls should be rapid, 16ths should be short, crisp)

**Fan slower speed**

(Blend with Vln 2)
Slow circles - fade out

Hold paper in front of fan

Let paper fly away

Fan OFF

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Violin 2

+ Medium Electric Fan
(see performance notes)

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{(Vc fan)} \quad \text{(Vc starts)} \quad \text{(Vla fan)} \quad \text{(Loop starts)}
\end{array}
\end{align*}
\]

\[\text{Fan ON} \quad \text{High speed} \quad \text{Molto espressivo} \quad \text{(Allow string to vibrate through rests)}\]

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Sync with Vln 1 (parchment paper)
(Trems should be rapid)

"Shh* (No vox)

*White noise (no pitch) - in sync with low G - dynamic mf"
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Viola
+ Medium Electric Fan
(see performance notes)

\[ \text{Loop starts} \]
Sing pitches (in any register) - dynamics follow those in vla line
“Ahh” (Ossia: ‘La’) - breathy

Project sound through fan (as much as possible)
Sync with Vc (parchment paper)
(Trems should be rapid)

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+ Parchment Paper
(see performance notes)

Sing pitches (in any register) - dynamics follow those in vc line
"Ahh" (Ossia: 'La') - breathy

Project sound through fan (as much as possible)
Con sord.

Loop starts
Sub mp

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Take parchment paper

Parchment paper
Rub paper in sync with Vla (trends should be rapid, 16ths should be short, crisp)

Slow circles - fade out
Hold paper in front of fan
Let paper fly away

Duration: ca. 4'00"