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Volume III
St Kilda
Instrumentation (in order of use)

Janglebelt
Pin chimes
Mark tree
Tam-tam
Five tom-toms (small to large)
Pedal bass drum
Concert bass drum
Three suspended cymbals (small, medium, large)
Two bongos
Voice (amplified)
Pedal Engelhart crasher
Chinese dance drum
Pedal gong
Large bamboo raintree
Frog-mouth cow bells (tuned)
Eight Chinese gongs (untuned - small to large)
Simtak
Three cymbal discs (large, medium, small)
Various metal chimes
Bass kalimba
Steel pan

In order for certain parts of the piece to be physically possible, it may be necessary to have more than one of any particular instrument or set of instruments.

The performer will also require a hands-free radio microphone as vocal sounds form part of the score. Also required is a record/playback facility. Sections of the work are to be recorded and played back. These sections could be pre-recorded on DAT or recorded during performance provided the system used offered instant playback.

No set-up plan is provided allowing the percussionist, choreographer and set designer to collaborate for the best possible results. As this is a dance piece which has been written without the collaboration of a choreographer it is, in effect, a work in progress. The composer acknowledges that such collaboration may result in changes to the score.

Although the rhythms are pretty well fixed, the dynamics of the piece are often left more or less open and will be dependent on the choreography. Dynamic changes, however, will result from the textural changes as more, or less, instruments are used at one time.
Scenario outline

This is a fairy story about the island of St Kilda off the west coast of Scotland. There was once a community on the island but it died in 1930 when the government decided it should be evacuated. The story, some of which is based on documented events from history, is set on the final day of occupation and relies on the premise that the spirits of the island’s past live on in the rock.

Act I

Scene 1 - Awakening

It is almost dawn. As the light increases, a spirit girl emerges from the rock. She prays. She is one of the many spirits from St Kilda’s past who inhabit the rock. She watches as gradually the villagers awake. It is their last day on the island and they are packed and ready to leave. One man appears more hesitant than the others. The spirit cannot be seen but the man senses some presence. The spirit returns to the rock. He is left alone. He has a final, lingering look at the village then kneels in prayer. The light changes. Life emerges from the rock behind him. Spirits join him in prayer. Suddenly he realises he is no longer alone. He sees the spirits. He is frightened and confused; terror-struck when he sees spirits enter and leave the rock. They prevent him from running away. The girl attracts his attention. He is completely lost in her beauty and wants to touch her but the others try to keep them apart. The instant they first touch is frozen. When the freeze breaks the others leave the couple alone. Time is irrelevant.

Scene 2 - Bereavement

The couple are interrupted by a sudden storm. The man is astonished as the spirits begin to re-enact events from the island’s past. A fisherman runs from the shore. The male parliament is summoned. Three men on a fishing boat are in danger. Their wives are told and they pray. Two of
the men are helped ashore exhausted but alive and are reunited with their wives. The villagers mourn the death of the third man as his body is brought ashore. The widow mourns alone but is later comforted by other women.

Scene 3 - Betrothal

There is a period of returning to normal village life. A young man is being prepared for the Love's Stone ceremony. His future bride is brought in to watch. As he climbs the rock, the light changes and the others vanish. He is on the edge of a high cliff. He performs the ritual - balancing on one leg on the edge of the cliff. He returns to ground level and a celebration begins.

Scene 4 - The Couple

The young couple express their love for one another. At one point their forms merge with those of the man and spirit couple.

Act II

Scene 5 - Deception

Village life resumes. Two strangers take the villagers by surprise. The strangers appear agitated and they warn the villagers that a band of robbers is coming to the village. One wise old woman does not believe the strangers. All the villagers, except the woman, gather in the church to pray for their safety. The strangers burn down the church and all inside are killed.

Scene 6 - The Wise Old Woman

A scheduled visit by officials takes place and the two strangers tell them that the villagers died when the church caught fire by accident. But the old woman comes out of hiding and reveals the truth. The men are arrested and taken away. The old woman visits the burnt out church. She summons mystical powers and new villagers emerge from the rock to repopulate the community.
Scene 7 - Tourists

The village is busy. The excitement builds to the arrival of a group of tourists. The tourists mingle with the villagers. Among the visitors there is, for example, a family group, a bird watcher, two student anthropologists, a photographer, and a friendly man with his pompous wife. Eventually, the tourists leave. The villagers celebrate a good day's trading and some mock the tourists in fun. The man and the spirit girl join in the fun but again, as soon as they touch, there is a freeze. When the freeze breaks, the couple are left alone. The re-enactments are over. They are interrupted by someone from the last boat urging the man to hurry up. The spirit had disappeared. The man asks to be left a little longer. As his friend leaves, he kneels in prayer.

Scene 8 - Reawakening

The spirit reappears. They are in torment over a future that seems impossible. If he leaves the island, he must leave her and she cannot go with him. In their agony they merge once more with the spirit couple and at that moment the man realises what he must do. He climbs to the Love’s Stone, performs the clifftop ritual but topples, deliberately, over the edge to his death. The spirits gather as the man’s body is brought in. The Wise Old Woman summons her powers and the man rises as a spirit. All the other spirits re-enter the rock. The couple have a moment alone before they too enter the rock. As they do, the cold grey stone changes colour. It is warm and alive with the spirits of the people of St Kilda.
ACT I  SCENE 1 - AWAKENING

IT IS ALMOST DAWN

SLOW

AS EIGHT INCHES
A GIRL CRIES ENDLESSLY
FROM THE ROCK

ALLOW BEETLE TO CRAWL FREELY
PINE COMES WITH A BEAT IN

TRIANGLE STRINGS
ON 3 POSITIONS
OF MARATHIS

IND. TUBES
STUCK AS LOW
AS POSSIBLE
DISTURBING
OTHER TUBES
TOO MUCH

SHE KNEELS

TOM TONE WITH
SD STICKS

3

SOFTLY

3

SIM.

VERY SOFT

1
VILLAGERS APPEAR

Spirit Mingles Unseen

21 FAIRLY SOFT 2 Sec

MAN SENSE = SPIRIT
Scene 2 - Bereavement

Stom C3 | Not too fast | C1 (C3)

Loud (Mallets)

C3 + Tam-Tam
Remain loud
Despite other
Dynamics

Ped. E'Harmonica

Fishman runs on F:3:

Chinese Voices
Drum (muted, 1sec.)

Villagers gather

Softer

Stick

Pedal

Order Ref. No. 12719
THE WOMEN EXIT

END OF SCENE 2
SCENE 3 - BETROTHAL

VILLAGE GRADUALLY RETURNS TO NORMAL

(crescendo until silence then fade)

NOTE: TROMBONE BLEND

8 CHINESE SONGS (TUNED/TUNED/CUT/CRISP)
SCENE 4 - THE LOVING TIME
ONE COUPLE ALONE

PLAYBACK

VOICE

VARIOUS MEET CHORUS

OH--LOVE THEY--DIE

IN YON RICH--SKY

They faint on--Hill--or Field--or River--

OUR E--CHORES--ROLL

FROM--Soul to Soul--

AND GROW FOR E--VER--AND--E--VER--BLOW--

LOVE THEY--DIE

IN YON RICH--SKY

23
BU- GLE BLOW — BU- GLE BLOW — SET THE WILD— E - CHOES—F-LY— ING

A N - SWER— E - CHOES— A N - SWER D Y - ING— BLOW

BU- GLE BLOW E - CHOES D Y - ING— E - CHOES A L L C H O E S A D - L I B

D Y - ING— E - CHOES D Y - ING— E - CHOES

D Y - ING— E - CHOES D Y - ING— E - CHOES

D Y - ING— E - CHOES D Y - ING— E - CHOES

D Y - ING— E - CHOES D Y - ING— E - CHOES

END OF SCENE 4

END OF ACT I
STRANGERS
SONGS HESITANCY

SET TEMPO

ONE OLD WOMAN DOES NOT BELIEVE THEM
STRANGERS SET FIRE TO CHURCH
UNSEEN, THE OLD WOMAN WATCHES IN HORROR

SOFTER

RING AND LOW NO SHE A SOUL ABOUT
I

LIKE TO STOP THEIR CRACK, CRACK-ING

AWFUL

BURN, BURN-ING FOR A WHILE

ORDER REF. NO. 12719
SCREAM - THAT WAS AWFUL ANOTHER

NO-THER COVER YOUR EARS THEY SCREAMED SCREAMED TERRIBLE

SCREAMED TERRIBLE AND TERRIBLE

GETTING FASTER + LOUDER

Order Ref. No. 12719
THE STRANGERS ARE TAKEN AWAY

VERY EXPRESSIVE

SLOWLY WITH A LIFT
THE SPIRITS BECOME VIKINGERS

NOT ANY FASTER

Order Ref. No. 12719
Scene 7 - The Tourists

Steady
Jazz-like
Tempo

The village is busy

Cow Bells

Steel Pan

Activity increases gradually

Order Ref. No. 12719
Order Ref. No. 12719
THE MAN AND SPIRIT, WHO HAVE BEEN WATCHING ALL THE RE-ENACTMENTS,
BECOME INVOLVED IN THE MOCKING FUN.
MAN AND SPIRIT TOUCH AND THERE IS ANOTHER FREEZE GETTING SLOWER

THE COUPLE ALONE AGAIN

OTHER MAN ENTERS

OTHER MAN LEAVES

MAN KNEELS

GETTING SLOWER
THE SPIRIT COUPLE APPEAR AND THE COUPLES MERGE AGAIN

55
THE MAN REALISES WHAT HE MUST DO

The climb as before but this time the man, not the spirit

Other spirits appear

Gradually louder
THE SPIRITS GATHER AND GRADUALLY MOVE INTO ROCK

S.P.

Voice

L.C.M.

BEATER SOFTLY

STILL METAL BEATERS

SOFTLY

CHIMES (ALWAYS VERY SOFT)

AMP*AOPW SCONSYSM (Order Ref. No. 12719)

Order Ref. No. 12719
1660
S.P.
Voice
L.C:
B
Trom
Trom

1666
THE COUPLE HAVE A MOMENT ALONE

1672
BEFORE THEY TOO ENTER THE ROCK

1678
AS THE COUPLE ENTER THE ROCK,

1684
THE COLD, GREY STONE CHANGES COLOUR.
IT IS WARM AND ALIVE WITH THE SPIRITS
OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. KILDA.

END OF SCENE 8