

John Oliver

Through Night

for Piano

Commissioned by Barbara Pritchard
Prize winner, La Tribune Nationale des jeunes compositeurs des
Evenements du neuf

johnolivermusic.com

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Duration: 10:30

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First performed on 5/26/1988

by Barbara Pritchard, pianist,

The Theatre, Brock Centre for the Arts, Brock Univ. St. Catherines, Canada

Program Note

Through Night is in two movements: 1] Sunset Shadows; 2] Moonshadows. Composed at the Banff Centre for the Arts, this work is inspired by the evolving processes first explored by the early minimalists. In this case, though, I have established several different types of sonically rich musical materials and have subjected each one to different lengths of additive or subtractive processes. The pianist needs to keep these different musical gestures clearly separated. The middle pedal is used throughout to sustain a “resonance chord”, one for each movement. The first movement places four musical “objects” out “in an open field”, so to speak (stacked perfect fifths), as the sun sets on the objects, creating lengthening shadows as the music progresses to the sunset at the end. In the second movement, we hear four “objects” placed on a now darkened field (stacked alternating tritones and perfect fourths) as the shadows move from long to short and back as the moon crosses the night sky. A haunting melody is overtaken by short notes in the process and then restored as the moon sets.

THROUGH NIGHT

for grand piano

1. Sunset Shadows

John Oliver
(1988/revised 2004)

♩ = 72

Piano

ff

Depress silently
Ped. *

ppppp

Sostenuto Pedal
holds to bar 109

ff

8^{va}

catch resonance
effect

Ped.

5

9

fff

8^{va}

8^{vb}

12

f

Ped.

15

pp

mp

mp

f

Ped.

20

f

p

mp

mp

f

mp

f

Ped.

23

p

mp

f

f

Ped.

26

mp

p

f

Ped.

29 *mp* 5 5 5 5 5 5 *p* 8^{va} *f* *Ped.* *Ped.** *Ped.*

32 *mp* 5 5 5 *Ped.* *Ped.*

34 5 5 *p* 8^{va} 9 9 *Ped.* *Ped.*

36 *mp* 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 *f* *Ped.* *Ped.*

39

fff *p* *f*

Ped.* Ped.

41

mp *f* *ff* *f*

Ped. Ped.

43

fff *f* *p* *f*

Ped. Ped.

45

f *f* *f* *mp*

Ped. Ped.

47

5 5 6 5 5

3 6

ff *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. *f* Ped.

50

8^{va} 9 9 9

p *f* *ff*

Ped. Ped.

52

f *mp* 5 5 5 5 6

3 *fff*

Ped.

54

5 5 6 *f*

f Ped. Ped.

55

mp *10:8* *10:8* *10:8* *10:8*

ff *Ped.*

56

8va *3* *fff*

Ped.

58 *8va*-1

ff *mf* 5 5 5

fff 5 5 3 *f* *mf* 5

ff Ped. _____

Ped. _____ Ped. *f* _____ Ped. _____

60 5 6 *f* *8va* _____

8va _____

Ped. _____

62 (8) (8)

63 (8) (8)

