

Commissioned by and composed for Todd Seagren

The Floating Island

inspired by Yann Martel's novel, *Life of Pi*

for euphonium and piano

Ryan Suleiman

2014

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duration: approx. 9'30

PROGRAM NOTES:

Commissioned by and composed for Todd Seagren, this piece takes its inspiration from the novel, *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel. The music attempts to depict the plight of the castaway Pi while he is stranded out in the seemingly endless, vast desert that is the open ocean. Spoilers ahead: To his astonishment and disbelief, he stumbles upon a bizarre discovery; an enormous island made entirely of algae floating freely in the water, populated by only meerkats and large pools of freshwater that mysteriously supply dead fish as food. It is a paradise that is beautiful, strange, and wondrous, providing Pi with everything he could ever need. However, Pi ultimately realizes that, rather live out his days in this strange paradise, he must return to the anguish of the open sea and find his way back to reality. Though the strange and beautiful island is fictional, I hope the music will inspire listeners to appreciate and help preserve the many wonders of the natural world. (R.S.)

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Freely ♩ = c. 82

play into the piano

Euphonium

mp p

Piano (hold pedal down): *Ped.*

5

mf mp pp *mf

ordinario

9 **A** With forward motion ♩ = c. 96

mf

(con pedale)

8^{vb}

13

mp

p

(r.h. loco)

(8)

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18

Musical score for measures 18-21. The score is written for a single bass clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4, then to 5/4, and finally back to 4/4. The piece starts with a *mf* dynamic. A circled number '8' is placed below the first measure of the grand staff. A dashed line underlines the first two measures of the grand staff.

22

Musical score for measures 22-26. The score is written for a single bass clef staff and a grand staff. The key signature has one flat. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4, then to 4/4, and finally to 3/4. Dynamics include *f* and *mp*. A circled number '8' is placed below the first measure of the grand staff.

27

Musical score for measures 27-30. The score is written for a single bass clef staff and a grand staff. The key signature has one flat. The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A circled number '8' is placed below the first measure of the grand staff. A circled letter 'B' is placed above the first measure of the bass staff. A circled letter 'B' is placed above the first measure of the grand staff. A circled number '3' is placed above the first measure of the grand staff. A dashed line underlines the first two measures of the grand staff.

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34

Musical score for measures 34-39. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The bass line starts with a whole note G2, followed by rests, and then a half note G2 with a *mf* dynamic. The grand staff features a complex texture with many beamed notes in the treble clef, starting with a *p* dynamic. The bass clef of the grand staff has a long note with a brace underneath, marked with an (8) and a dashed line. The *mf* dynamic appears in the grand staff around measure 37.

40

Musical score for measures 40-44. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff. The bass line has a half note G2 with a *pp* dynamic, followed by rests. The grand staff features a complex texture with many beamed notes in the treble clef, marked with a *mp* dynamic. The bass clef of the grand staff has a long note with a brace underneath, marked with an 8^{vb} and a dashed line. The music changes from 4/4 to 3/4 time signature around measure 42.

45

Musical score for measures 45-49. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff. The bass line has a half note G2 with a *mp* dynamic, followed by rests. The grand staff features a complex texture with many beamed notes in the treble clef, marked with a *p* dynamic. The bass clef of the grand staff has a long note with a brace underneath. The music changes from 4/4 to 3/4 time signature around measure 47.