AFTER ALL

I. Wounded World
II. Disciplined Practice
III. Solar Panels
IV. After All

Quintet for String Quartet and Narrator
Composed by Nathan Kroms Davis
For the Halcyon String Quartet and David Troup
2021-2022; Rockland, Maine
Approximate duration: 25 minutes

I composed After All following a period of several years in which my life had turned away from music and art towards activism and then public service. This period coincided with the presidency of Donald Trump, the global retreat of liberal democracy, the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and subsequent national reckoning, and of course the unrelenting ecological catastrophe that characterizes our era. Nonetheless, I tried to capture in After All a long view of human and nonhuman affairs, and I think that the long view - which is also the collective view, since none of us stick around for the long view - remains hopeful.

Most of the spoken text of After All consists of testimonies of the audience and supporters of the Halcyon String Quartet, which they offered in response to the following prompt:

Near the end of his life, the poet William Yeats realized that he must find a new beginning in "the foul rag and bone shop of the heart" - the unordered chaos of human feeling. As we contemplate our warming planet, its divided communities, its joys, and sufferings, we invite you to share your reflections on the following questions: Is our collective future a bright one? Can we change it? What does the world look like to you in 50 years? Who is "we"? Who are you?

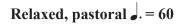
The final words, however, starting at measure 120 of the final movement, are an excerpt of a poem by Kate Barnes, the first Poet Laureate of Maine, as described in the acknowledgment below.

I profoundly thank Halcyon and David Troup, who have made my experience of After All meaningful beyond words.

-Nathan Davis

Kate Barnes, excerpt from "April and Then May" from *Where the Deer Were*. Copyright © 1994 by Kate Barnes. Used by permission of The Permissions Company, LLC on behalf of David R. Godine, Publisher, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

I. Wounded World









Vln. I Vln. II pizz. pizz. pizz. arco pizz. arco arco Vla. mf pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco mfmfmolto

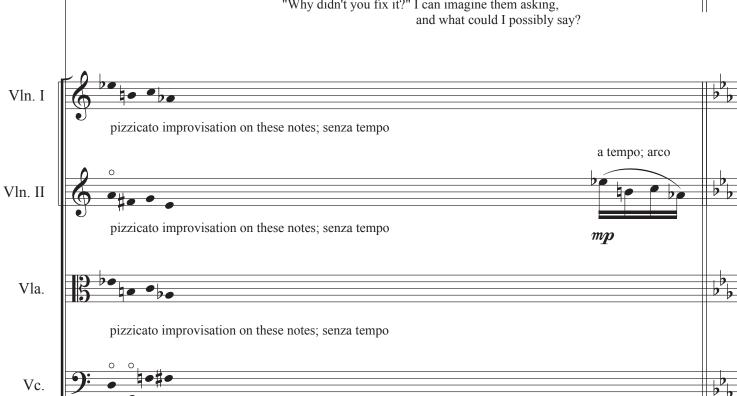




Now it's carbon in the atmosphere, but nuclear weapons are still here.







pizzicato improvisation on these notes; senza tempo



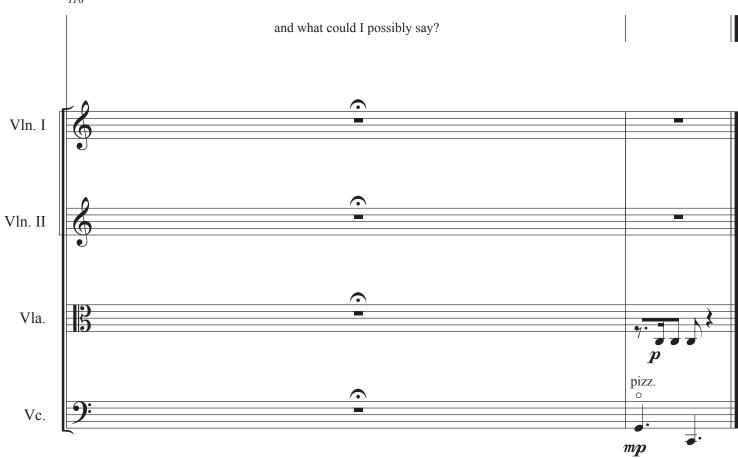




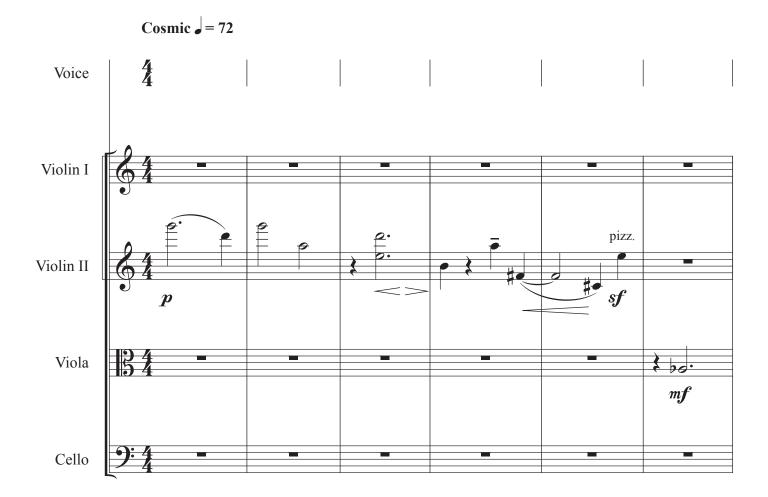
9.

pp

sub.



II. Disciplined Practice



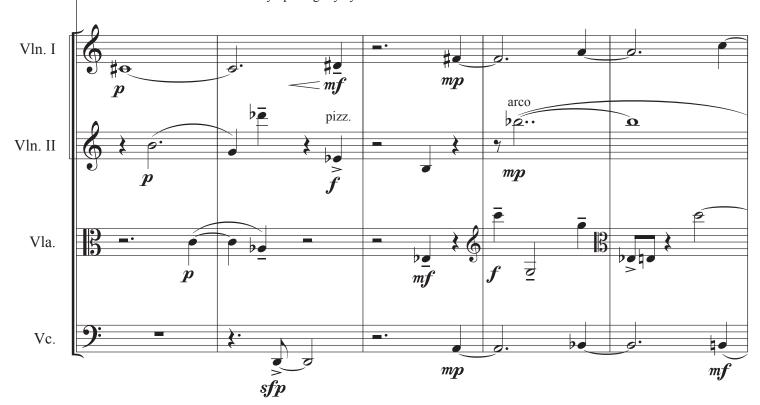




23

I want to share what I have discovered by opening my eyes and ears to music.

For me



learning to play the piano in a group setting pre-pandemic and on Zoom during the isolation has been a wonderful learning process with much frustration, exasperation and little success.























When attending a concert, if a musical piece expands the mind even a wee bit, you have succeeded.



III. Solar Panels











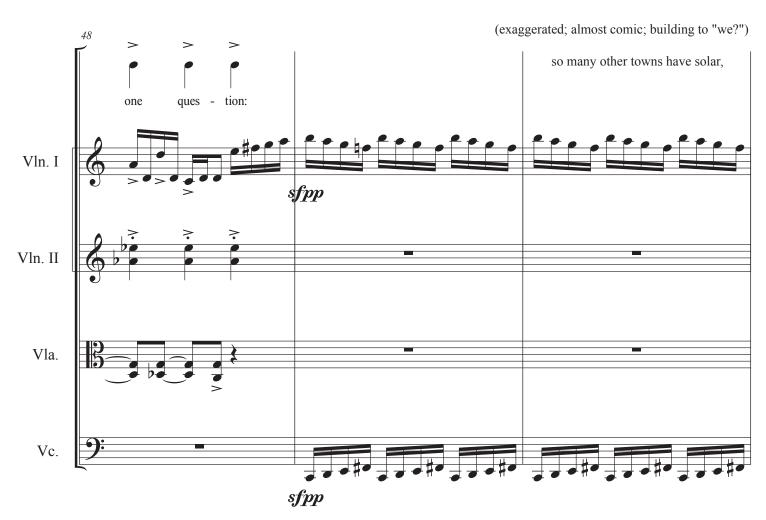


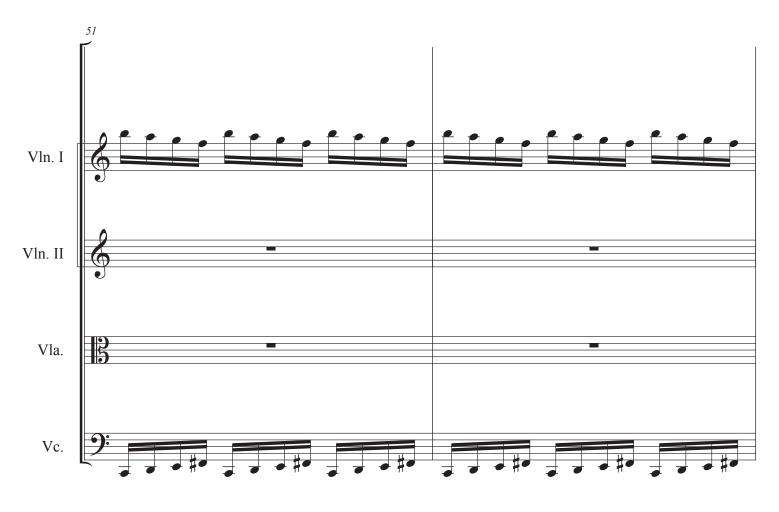


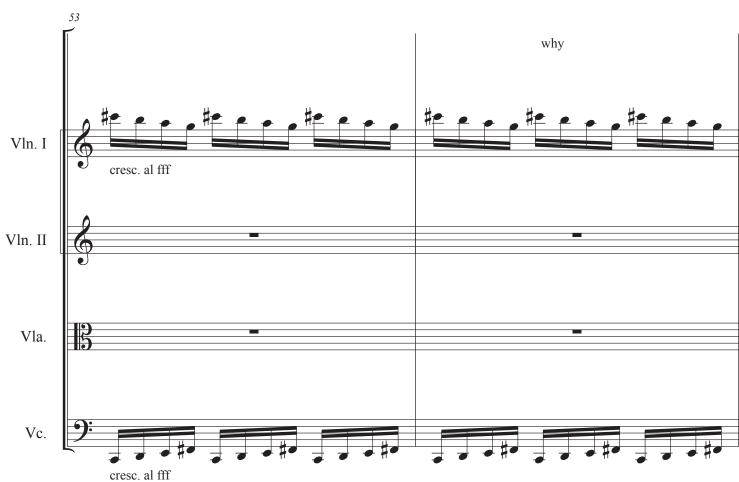


























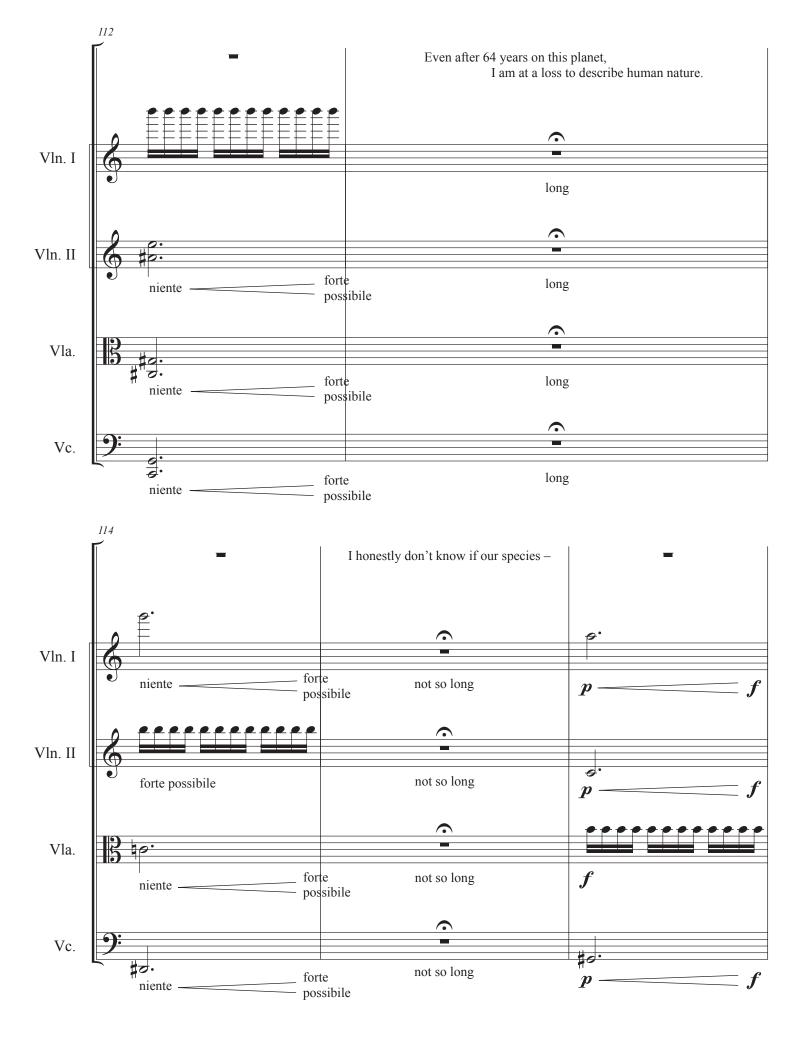






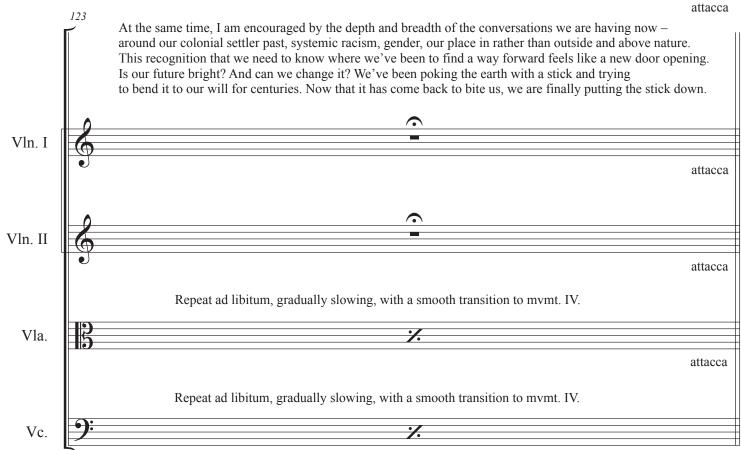












IV. After All





Vc. 9: | |









p



