



## Light in Dark Clouds

a meditative sound journey dedicated to all those who look up to the sky

~ for piano, harp, percussion and 8 cellos

Composed by  
Madeleine Chassar-Hesketh



# Light in Dark Clouds

motifs\* - piano & harp can either play the motifs as given or assemble the notes from each motif and improvise on them. Each motif should no more than 12 syllables rhythmically. Vary number of syllables from 2 upwards. Use each note listed as many times as required during your motif.

First Cello Chord:

a, e, a, f#



Approx 10 Seconds

Randomly choose from:

1. c#, f#, a, e
2. c#, g#, e
3. c#, e, b, g#
4. a, e, g#, c#, f#

5. a#, d#, g, c, c#, d, e

6. c#, a#, e, g#, c, g, d
7. e, b, c#, g#, d#
8. a, c, e, a, c#, g#
9. c#, e, a, g#, c, f, eb, f#



Cello Notes to Select from for main section;

A, B, C, D, E, F#, G#

Last Cello Chord:

a, e, a, f#



Approx 10 Seconds

one cycle of the piece to last approximately 2 to 3 minutes / repeat with new random motifs - recommend at least 4 times

## Performance

### Directions Cellos

Always sustain the sound.  
No pauses in between the notes  
All notes are artificial harmonics  
Inner section notes have to be picked in any desired order  
Pitch changes in the middle section should be a cello at a time  
Start with cello 1, followed by cello 2, and so forth  
Each pitch change should last about 4-6 seconds  
Timing of changes should be based on the perception of tension and release in the sound structures and playing created by the piano and harp

## Performance

### Directions Piano

Randomly pick an order for the 9 motifs\*.  
Play first motif approx 10 seconds into the piece  
Take consecutive turns with the harp to play a motif.  
Notice the light / dark contrasts and respond with tempo and dynamic changes as appropriate  
Allow varying space between each motif played for audience contemplation

## Performance

### Directions Harp

Randomly pick an order for 8 motifs\*.  
Allow the piano to play the first motif  
Take consecutive turns with the piano to play a motif.  
Notice the light / dark contrasts and respond with tempo and dynamic as appropriate  
Allow varying space between each motif played for audience contemplation

## Performance

### Directions Percussion

Percussion to be as follows:  
Bowed Crotales - played slowly and drawn out to create tension and release (select notes from cello instructions - lower bowed notes work well)  
Wind Chimes - played slowly and gently / fade in and out throughout the piece  
Triangle - played randomly a maximum of 5 times during a cycle / pick moments of silence between motifs  
Tympani  
Gentle rolls like distant thunder at moments where dynamic uplift required

# 8 Violoncellos

## Performance Directions

1. Always sustain the sound. No pauses in between the notes.
2. In inner section notes have to be picked in any desired order.
3. Pitch changes in the middle section should be a cello at a cello
4. Start with cello 1, followed by cello 2, and so forth
5. Each pitch change should last about 4-6 seconds
6. Timing should be based on the perception of tension and release in the sound structures.

## Light in Dark Clouds

for Piano, Harp, Percussion and 8 cellos

Madeleine Chassar-Hesketh  
(February 2020)

The musical score is divided into three sections by vertical bar lines. Above the staves, three brackets indicate the duration of each section: approximately 10 seconds for the first section, approximately 2 minutes and 10 seconds for the second section, and approximately 10 seconds for the third section. Each staff is labeled on the left with its instrument number and name: Cello 1.2, Cello 3.4, Cello 5.6, and Cello 7.8. The first section of each staff begins with a treble clef (for Cello 1.2, 3.4, 5.6) or a bass clef (for Cello 7.8), a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a dynamic marking of *ppp sempre*. The notes in the first section are sustained. The second section features a series of pitch changes, with lines connecting the notes across the staves to show the sequence of changes. The third section shows a final sustained note for each cello, with a wedge-shaped line indicating the sound's decay over time.

Piano

# Light in Dark Clouds

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Freely ♩ ≈ 70

①

8va

Ped.

\*

②

(wait until sound dies out)

Ped.

\*

③

8va

Ped.

\*

④

Ped.

\*

⑤

Ped.

\*

⑥

4"

Ped. \* Ped.

\*

⑦

8va

4"

Ped.

\*

⑧

8"

Ped.

\*

⑨

(wait until sound dies out)

2" 2"

Ped.

\*

\* The chord with the star is meant to be played the loudest

Harp

# Light in Dark Clouds

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Freely ♩ ≈ 70

①

8va

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#

②

(wait until sound dies out)

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#

③

8va

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#

④

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#

⑤

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#

⑥

4"

E♭ F# G# A♭  
B♭ C# D♭

⑦

8va

4"

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#

⑧

8"

E♭ F# G# A#  
B# C# D#