

This Cruel Moon

(2017)

*adapted from "Immortal thread, so weak,"
from "Wine-Dark Sea: Symphony for Band"*

for concert band

John Mackey

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Instrumentation

2 Flutes

Oboe *

Bassoon

3 Bb Clarinets

Bass Clarinet

Contrabass clarinet (optional but preferred - Eb contra-alto part also provided)

2 Alto Saxophones

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

3 Bb Trumpets

2 Horns

3 Trombones

Euphonium

Tuba

Double Bass (optional but preferred)

Timpani

Marimba (2 players, but playable on single shared instrument)

Vibraphone

Bass Drum

Duration : anywhere from 6-7.5 minutes is appropriate

Notes

* A soprano saxophone part is included to cover the oboe part.

Bass trombone is preferred for the trombone 3 part, but alternate notes are provided in the part if the player does not have a trigger to allow for low Eb's, D's, and C's.

To make the piece maximally adaptable for various levels of players, many ossia notes are indicated and may be used where the player is not secure with the upper-most or lower-most note. (For example, high D's and E's in clarinet I are always given lower optional notes.) There are also two versions of each mallet part: one "standard" and one "simplified" with only single notes happening at a time.

Program Note

This piece is an adaptation of the middle movement of “Wine-Dark Sea: Symphony for Band.” The full symphony tells the tale of Odysseus and his journey home following his victory in the Trojan War. But Odysseus' journey would take as long as the war itself. Homer called the ocean on which Odysseus sailed a wine-dark sea, and for the Greek king it was as murky and disorienting as its name; he would not find his way across it without first losing himself.

“This Cruel Moon” is the song of the beautiful and immortal nymph Kalypso, who finds Odysseus near death, washed up on the shore of the island where she lives all alone. She nurses him back to health, and sings as she moves back and forth with a golden shuttle at her loom. Odysseus shares her bed; seven years pass. The tapestry she began when she nursed him becomes a record of their love.

But one day Odysseus remembers his home. He tells Kalypso he wants to leave her, to return to his wife and son. He scoffs at all she has given him. Kalypso is heartbroken.

And yet, that night, Kalypso again paces at her loom. She unravels her tapestry and weaves it into a sail for Odysseus. In the morning, she shows Odysseus a raft, equipped with the sail she has made and stocked with bread and wine, and calls up a gentle and steady wind to carry him home. Shattered, she watches him go; he does not look back.

♩ = 84

rit.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

♩ = 84

rit. con cord - straight tutti

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2-3

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2-3

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

♩ = 84

rit.

Timp.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Vib.

Large BD

p, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *cresc.*, *rit.*, *arco*, *pedal*

2/4, 4/4

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D ♩ = 84

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
Bsn.

Clar. 1
Clar. 2
Clar. 3
Bs. Cl.
Cb. Cl.

A. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

D ♩ = 84

Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2-3
Horn 1
Horn 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2-3
Euph.
Tuba

D.B.

D ♩ = 84

Timp.
Mrb. 1
Mrb. 2
Vib.
Large BD

rit.

E a tempo

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
Bsn.
Clar. 1
Clar. 2
Clar. 3
Bs. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
A. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

Musical score for woodwinds and strings. The score includes parts for Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Contrabass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The music is in E major and features a tempo change from *rit.* to *a tempo*. Time signatures change from 2/4 to 3/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *pp*. A large watermark 'www.ostimusic.com' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

rit.

E a tempo

Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2-3
Horn 1
Horn 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2-3
Euph.
Tuba
D.B.

Musical score for brass instruments. The score includes parts for Trumpet 1, Trumpets 2-3, Horn 1, Horn 2, Trombone 1, Trombones 2-3, Euphonium, Tuba, and Double Bass. The music is in E major and features a tempo change from *rit.* to *a tempo*. Time signatures change from 2/4 to 3/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *pp*. Performance instructions include 'senza sord.' and 'arco'. A large watermark 'www.ostimusic.com' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

rit.

E a tempo

Mrb. 1
Mrb. 2
Vib.

Musical score for percussion. The score includes parts for Maracas 1, Maracas 2, and Vibraphone. The music is in E major and features a tempo change from *rit.* to *a tempo*. Time signatures change from 2/4 to 3/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A large watermark 'www.ostimusic.com' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
Bsn.
Clar. 1
Clar. 2
Clar. 3
Bs. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
A. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2-3
Horn 1
Horn 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2-3
Euph.
Tuba
D.B.
Timp.
Mrb. 1
Mrb. 2
Vib.
Large BD

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 84$
Dynamic: *poco a poco rit.*

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 84$
Dynamic: *poco a poco rit.*

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 84$ if possible, tune one of the lower drums to F (if not possible, play the A in measure 75 - do not play both notes)
Dynamic: *poco a poco rit.*

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Time Signature: 2/4

H $\text{♩} = 66$

I

Fl. 1 *p* *solo* *p*

Fl. 2

Ob. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ *solo* *p*

Bsn.

Clar. 1 *pp* *p* *solo*

Clar. 2 *pp*

Clar. 3 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ *solo*

Bs. Cl. *pp*

Cb. Cl. *pp*

A. Sx. *p* *pp* *solo* *p*

A. Sx. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ *solo*

T. Sx. *pp* *solo*

B. Sx. *pp* *solo*

H $\text{♩} = 66$

senza sord.
solo

I

Tpt. 1 *p*

Tpt. 2-3 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2-3 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Euph.

Tuba

H $\text{♩} = 66$

I

Timp.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2 *pp*

Vib. *p*

Large BD *pp*

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Fl. 1 *p* *mp* *f* **K allarg.**

Fl. 2 *p* *mf* *p*

Ob. *p* *mp* *p* **2/4** **4/4**

Bsn. *p* *mf* *p*

Clar. 1 *mp* *f* *mp* solo

Clar. 2 *p* *mf*

Clar. 3 *p* *mf*

Bs. Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Cb. Cl. *pp* *p*

A. Sx. solo *p* *tutti* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

A. Sx. *p* *mf* *p*

T. Sx. *p* *mf* *p*

B. Sx. *pp* *p*

Tpt. I *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

Tpt. 2-3 senza sord. 2. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

Horn I *p* *mf* *p*

Horn 2 *p* *mf* *p*

Tbn. I *p* *mf* *p*

Tbn. 2-3 *p* *mf* *p*

Euph. *p* *mf* *p*

Tuba *pp* *p* *mf* *p*

D.B. *p* arco *pp* **K allarg.**

Timp.

Mrb. 1 *p*

Mrb. 2 *p* **2/4** **4/4**

Vib. *p*

Large BD *pp*

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♩ = 84, poco a poco rit.

molto rit. (like a music box coming to a stop)

Fl. 1 solo *p* lift and taper *pp*

Fl. 2 solo *p* lift and taper *pp*

Ob. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Bsn. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Clar. 1 *pp*

Clar. 2

Clar. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Bs. Cl. *pp*

Cb. Cl. *pp*

A. Sx. *pp*

A. Sx. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

♩ = 84, poco a poco rit. molto rit. (like a music box coming to a stop)

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Euph.

Tuba

D.B. *pp* pizz. *mp* *p* *pp* $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

♩ = 84, poco a poco rit. molto rit. (like a music box coming to a stop)

Double Bass

Timp. *p* *pp*

Mrb. 1 *p* *pp*

Mrb. 2 *p* $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Vib. *p* *pp* (hold pedal until last note has faded)

Large BD *pp*