Chris Paul Harman

Der Tag mit seinem Licht

(2011)

Commissioned by the Transmission Ensemble of Montreal

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Instrumentation:

Flute (doubles piccolo)  
Clarinet (doubles recorder)  
Violin (with regular mute, and practice mute)  
Cello (with regular mute)  
Percussion (crotale, vibraphone, toy piano)  
Piano (doubles 5-octave celesta)

Score is in C.

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

*Der Tag mit seinem Licht (the Day with its Light)* was commissioned in 2010 by the Transmission Ensemble of Montreal. The work draws its title from a chorale melody of the same name from the 69 Chorale Melodies published together with J.S.Bach’s 371 Harmonized Chorales.

Of particular note in this work is the emphasis on diatonic materials, recontextualized in a non-linear, non-diatonic framework; triads, diatonic scales and cadences abound in contexts where harmonic “colour” supercedes functional harmony. The original chorale melody is at times heard explicitly; at other times, it is subjected to various types of alterations, though its distinctive contour (near-perfect ascending and descending lines in alternation) remains recognizable.

The orchestration is, for the most part, fragile. The vibraphone frequently contributes running lines or chords as a kind of “underpainting” for many of the work’s textures, while the sparer piano part articulates larger scale formal divisions. The violin emerges on several occasions with filigree work, though at a quiet dynamic, restrained by the use of a mute. Crippled sonorities emerge through rarefied appearances of the celesta (emphasizing the low register), piccolo (likewise emphasizing its low register), toy piano and recorder.

Chris Paul Harman  
Montreal  
April 2011
Flute
Clarinet in B♭
Violin
Cello
Vibraphone
Piano

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*Grace notes in the flute and clarinet should be faster than the grace notes in the piano.
**Grace notes in the percussion part should be coordinated to start with the piano.
***Bracketed notes in the percussion part indicate crotales (at sounding pitch).
\textbf{breathe imperceptibly as necessary}

(\textit{use open strings wherever possible})
5.
6.
Fl.
Bs Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Vib.
Pno.

\textbf{Fl.} \\
\textbf{Bs Cl.} \\
\textbf{Vln.} \\
\textbf{Vc.} \\
\textbf{Vib.} \\
\textbf{Pno.}
G \( \frac{3}{4} \)-104

**Fl.**

**Bb Cl.**

*Senza sord.*

**Vln.**

*alla punta*

**Vc.**

**Vib.**

*marcato*

**Pno.**

\( p \)

\( \Phi \)

April 2011, Montreal

26.