

Yearnings

of a Middled-Aged Composer About to be Drowned

- I. To Be Courted (~6min)
- II. Revenge (~4min)
- III. Something More (~4min)

Chamber Orchestra

2 Flutes (doubling piccolo, alto flute)

1 Oboe (doubling cor anglais)

1 Clarinets

1 Low-C Bass Clarinet

1 Bassoon

1 Contrabassoon

1 Horn

1 Trumpet

1 Trombone

1 Timpani (set of four)

2 Percussionists

Mvmt I: suspended cymbal, bowed or struck with soft mallets

vibraphone

bass drum

vibraslap

Mvmt II: vibraphone

bowed suspended cymbal

vibraslap

Mvmt III: vibraphone

shaker

bass drum

1 Piano

Violin I, II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

Fantom Synthesizer (see technical notes)

Laptop Synthesizer (see technical notes)

Program Note

Here is how it will happen. Walking on Ocean Beach, forgetting himself and looking away from the surf, he hears the roar. As he turns to look at the waves he realizes he is about to be swept away. In these final moments he only has time for a few thoughts, and they come suddenly, rushing at him like the dark water: he wishes that he had been courted, at least once in his life; he thinks of those who have wronged him, however subtly, and longs for revenge; and he yearns for something more than how he's lived (although he really doesn't know what that would be). Finally, his face pushes into the cold sea...

Additional composer comments: In *Yearnings*, the chamber orchestra is augmented by two synthesizers. These are not pre-recorded tracks; in contrast to synthesizers of the twentieth century, computer processing is now sufficiently fast to enable live performance of very complex synthetic algorithms. This frees the conductor to choose tempos traditionally, eliminating the need for pre-recorded tracks. One of these parts ("dark bells") plays continuously between the first and second movements.