

ELEMENTS OF EQUUS
for mixed choir a cappella

HENRIK DAHLGREN
(2016)

PERUSAL SCORE

PROGRAMME NOTES

Sometimes, as a composer, I read a text and immediately hear the music within it. It doesn't happen often, maybe never for some, but for me, that was the case with Barcelles' poem *Element Of Equus*. The feeling that there is only one way these words can be sung is incredibly powerful but also challenging, as the risk of getting 'stuck' in one's writing increases. The piece explores the theme of humanity's treatment of the animal kingdom, a challenging concept that can easily become mundane, but with Barcelles' poem I found something extra. I immediately envisioned an inner image of wild horses thundering across the fields. An incredibly beautiful portrayal of wild animals but with a dark shadow over them. Animals with a mane and tail of wild thorns and eyes like liquid amber... animals fleeing. Fleeing from what? Perhaps the advance and devastation caused by humans.

This piece was commissioned by the Swedish choir Eginokören and their conductor Anita Andersson as a part of an international concept called Earth Choir.

Henrik Dahlgren

TEXT

*Mane and tail of wild briar
Coat of dandelion fluff
Eyes of liquid amber
Hooves of wind and dust
Born from wild earth
Untamed and free
Nostrils flared, tails to the air
Like rolling thunder they flee*

Christina E. Barcelles

PERFORMANCE NOTES

 = Glissando (to the duration of the note value).

 = No breath gap between the notes).

Composed 2016

Duration c. 4-5 minutes

First performance Eginokören | conducted by Anita Andersson
12 November 2016 | Dalby kyrka, Dalby, Sweden

More information www.henrikdahlgren.com

Commissioned by Anita Andersson and Eginokören
ELEMENTS OF EQUUS
for mixed choir a cappella

CHRISTINA E. BARCELLES

HENRIK DAHLGRÉN (2016)

Molto agitato (♩ = c. 90)

SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS

ff marcato

Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

for rehearsal only

5

coat of dan - de - li - on fluff.

10 *mf* _____ *f*

Eyes of li - - quid am - ber,

mf _____ *f*

Eyes of li - - quid am - ber,

mf _____ *f*

8 Eyes of li - - quid am - ber,

mf _____ *f*

Eyes _____ of _____ am - ber,

14 *mf* _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind and dust.

mf _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind and dust.

mf _____ *subito p*

8 hooves _____ of wind and dust.

mf _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind and dust.

18

ff
Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

ff
Mane and tail of wild bri -

ff
8 Mane and tail of wild bri -

ff
Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

22

coat of dan - de - li - on fluff.

coat dan - de - li - on fluff.

coat dan - de - li - on fluff.

coat of dan - de - li - on fluff.

f dolce
 Eyes of li - quid am - ber, *mp*

f dolce
 Eyes of li - quid am - ber,

f dolce
 Eyes of li - quid am - ber,

f dolce
 Eyes of li - quid am - ber,

of wi and dust.

mp
 hooves of dust.

mp
 hooves of dust.

mp
 hooves of dust.

34

p sotto voce

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free.

p sotto voce

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free.

p sotto voce

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free.

p sotto voce

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free.

rit. a tempo

38

mp

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free. Nos - trils flared,

mp

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free. Nos - trils flared,

mp

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free. Nos - trils

mp

Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free. Nos - trils.

rit. poco meno mosso

44

flared, flared, tails to

Nos - trils flared,

flared, Nos - trils flared,

mp dolce

p

mf

falset

48

air

tails to the air

tails to air

Like rol - ling thun - der.

Like rol - ling thun - der.

mp dolce

f marcato

f marcato

tempo primo

53

ff marcato

Musical score for measures 53-56. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Mane and tail of wild briar,". The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked "tempo primo" and the dynamics are "ff marcato".

57

Musical score for measures 57-60. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "coat of dan - de - li - on fluff.". The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked "tempo primo".

62

mf _____ *f*

Eyes of li - - quid am - ber,

mf _____ *f*

Eyes of li - - quid am - ber,

mf _____ *f*

Eyes of li - - quid am - ber,

mf _____ *f*

Eyes _____ of _____ n - ber,

66

mf _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind _____ and dust.

mf _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind _____ and dust.

mf _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind _____ and dust.

mf _____ *subito p*

hooves _____ of wind _____ and dust.

70 *mp*

Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

Mane and tail of wild bri - ar,

poco rit.

74

eyes of li - quid am - ber.

eyes of li - quid am - ber.

eyes of li - quid am - ber.

eyes of li - quid am - ber.

79

p Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free

p Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free

p Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free

p Born from wild earth, un - tamed and free

84

pp they flee, *p* they flee, *mp* they

pp they flee, *p* they flee, *mp* they

pp they flee, *p* they flee, *mp* they

they flee, *p* they flee, *mp* they

