

Commande du French-American Fund for Contemporary Music (CAF) et de la Florence Gould Foundation pour le Kronos Quartet

Les séquences préenregistrées peuvent être vues sur le site web :  
The pre-recorded sequences can be seen on the web site :

<http://www.kronosquartet.org/low-resolution-codes>

Scannez le code à l'aide d'un lecteur de codes.

17/4/02

Création :

Le 16 novembre 2010, Sartrouville (F)  
Théâtre de Sartrouville  
Kronos Quartet

First performance:

16 November 2010, Sartrouville (F)  
Théâtre de Sartrouville  
Kronos Quartet

Durée / Duration : 25'

## Avant-propos

Pour quiconque ne s'y est jamais aventuré, l'Egypte multimillénaire se présente comme un monument immense et fascinant par la complexité et la richesse de son histoire depuis la nuit des temps jusqu'à aujourd'hui.

Sur une proposition de David Harrington qui souhaitait que je compose pour le Kronos Quartet une œuvre sur l'Egypte où différentes couches du temps s'entrelacent, j'ai pris l'idée de faire de cette partition pour quatuor à cordes et sons préenregistrés une plongée dans les multiples facettes de l'Egypte et du Caire. Confondant le temps présent avec l'ancien, je suis inspiré d'un passage du Livre des Morts Égyptiens qui relate le voyage nocturne du dieu solaire Rê opérant sur sa barque le passage entre la mort et la vie, entre la mort et le cycle de vie.

L'eau, élément primordial au pays du Nil et de l'Infini-Duo, est symbolisée par des motifs musicaux évoquant la fluidité, qui relient les différentes étapes logiquement séparées par la narration. On entend les bruits luxuriants de la mégapole du sud, les battements de coeur des tambours arabes d'une danse frénétique, un appel intemporel à la prière, la sérénité d'un chant antique, une mélodie antique ponctuée par des sistres émergents des sables, puis une progression hypnotique menant vers l'éblouissement dans le soleil.

Thierry Pécou, octobre 2010

For those who have yet to travel there, ancient Egypt with its past stretching many thousands of years presents itself as a vast and fascinating monument spanning its complex and rich history through the ages. I took up his idea of an interweaving of different time periods right up to the present day.

On a been asked to a request from David Harrington who wanted me to compose a work for the Kronos Quartet on Egypt, since when different temporal layers are interwoven, I took up his idea of an interweaving of different time periods and magnified the multiple facets of Egypt and Cairo in this composition for string quartet and pre-recorded sounds. As the present day and the ancient world have become confused, I was permitted to be inspired by a passage from the Egyptian Book of the Dead which relates to the mysterious nocturnal journey of the sun god Ra, sailing from death into life and death into a new life cycle.

The water which has such great significance in the land of the Nile with its great floods is symbolised by musical motifs evoking the fluidity of the river, linking up the individual sections and leaving indelible traces through the entire score. You can hear the exuberant sounds of the mega-city Cairo, the rhythms and Arabic melodies of a frenetic dance, a timeless call as if to prayer, the stillness of the desert and an ancient melismatic song accompanied by sistres which have been discovered in the sand during archaeological excavations. This is followed by a hypnotic progression culminating in a gaze directly into the blinding sun.

Thierry Pécou, October 2010  
(translated by: Lindsay Chalmers-Gerbracht)

## Vorwort

Für denjenigen, der sich noch nie zuvor dorthin wagte, präsentiert sich das viele Jahrtausende alte Ägypten durch die Komplexität und den Reichtum seiner vom Anbeginn der Zeiten bis heute andauernden Geschichte als ein immenses und faszinierendes Monument.

Nachdem David Harrington mich damit beauftragt hatte, für das Kronos Quartet eine Partitur über Ägypten – den Ort, wo sich unterschiedliche Zeitschichten ineinander verschlechten – zu komponieren, folgte ich seinem Vorschlag, zu versuchen, mit dieser Partitur verschiedene gesprochene und vorproduzierte Klänge ein imaginatives Eintauchen in die multiplen Dimensionen von Chronos und Kairos darzustellen. Indem die heutige Zeit und das Altertum miteinander verschmelzen, ließ ich mich von einer Passage aus dem Ägyptischen Totentext inspirieren, die die mysteriösen nächtlichen Reise des Sonnengottes Ra erzählt. Und so entstand ein Zyklus aus sechs Sätzen, in seinem Boot zwischen Leben und Tod einem neuen Leben.

Das im Land des Nils mit seinen Überflutungen besondere Fließen des Wassers und von musikalischen, die Bewegung des Fließens evozieren. Von Morgen bis Abend werden die verschiedenen Abschnitte verbinden und die gesamte Partitur wird die überbordenden Geräusche der Millionenstädte äufern, die durch die unzähligen Melodien eines frenetischen Tanzes, einen zeitlosen Sieggleich, eine Art von Wutan, einen antiken Melismengesang, der von den archaischen Alten aus dem Sand aufgetauchten Sistren begleitet wird. Schließlich wird die Seele nach ihrem Steigetum die mit dem Blick in die blendende Sonne aufwacht.

Thierry Petit, Oktober 2010

PREVIEW  
Low Resolution

# Les Rameurs obscurs de la barque de Rê

Thierry Etienne  
\*1965

*p fluide*

*p fluide*

*p fluide*

**PREVIEW**

**Low Resolution**

*p fluide*

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**PREVIEW**

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**PREVIEW**

**Low Resolution**

Musical score for orchestra and piano, showing measures 22, 25, 28, and 31.

**Measure 22:** Four staves of music. The top three staves are woodwind instruments (Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon) playing eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is Double Bass. Measure numbers 22 and 23 are at the top left.

**Measure 25:** Four staves. The top two staves show sustained notes with grace notes above them. The bottom two staves show rhythmic patterns in the Double Bass and Cello.

**Measure 28:** Four staves. The top two staves show sustained notes with grace notes above them. The bottom two staves show rhythmic patterns in the Double Bass and Cello.

**Measure 31:** Four staves. The top two staves show sustained notes with grace notes above them. The bottom two staves show rhythmic patterns in the Double Bass and Cello. Dynamics include *con sord.*, *G.P.*, *pp*, and *con sord.*

A page of musical notation on five staves. The music is in common time. Measure 35 starts with a treble clef, followed by a bass clef, then a treble clef. Measure 36 begins with a bass clef. Measure 37 starts with a treble clef. Measure 38 begins with a bass clef. Measure 39 starts with a treble clef. Measure 40 begins with a bass clef. Measure 41 starts with a treble clef. Measure 42 begins with a bass clef. Measure 43 starts with a treble clef. Measure 44 begins with a bass clef. Measure 45 starts with a treble clef. Measure 46 begins with a bass clef. Measure 47 starts with a treble clef. Measure 48 begins with a bass clef. Measure 49 starts with a treble clef. Measure 50 begins with a bass clef. Measure 51 starts with a treble clef. Measure 52 begins with a bass clef. Measure 53 starts with a treble clef. Measure 54 begins with a bass clef. Measure 55 starts with a treble clef. Measure 56 begins with a bass clef. Measure 57 starts with a treble clef. Measure 58 begins with a bass clef. Measure 59 starts with a treble clef. Measure 60 begins with a bass clef. Measure 61 starts with a treble clef. Measure 62 begins with a bass clef. Measure 63 starts with a treble clef. Measure 64 begins with a bass clef. Measure 65 starts with a treble clef. Measure 66 begins with a bass clef. Measure 67 starts with a treble clef. Measure 68 begins with a bass clef. Measure 69 starts with a treble clef. Measure 70 begins with a bass clef. Measure 71 starts with a treble clef. Measure 72 begins with a bass clef. Measure 73 starts with a treble clef. Measure 74 begins with a bass clef. Measure 75 starts with a treble clef. Measure 76 begins with a bass clef. Measure 77 starts with a treble clef. Measure 78 begins with a bass clef. Measure 79 starts with a treble clef. Measure 80 begins with a bass clef. Measure 81 starts with a treble clef. Measure 82 begins with a bass clef. Measure 83 starts with a treble clef. Measure 84 begins with a bass clef. Measure 85 starts with a treble clef. Measure 86 begins with a bass clef. Measure 87 starts with a treble clef. Measure 88 begins with a bass clef. Measure 89 starts with a treble clef. Measure 90 begins with a bass clef. Measure 91 starts with a treble clef. Measure 92 begins with a bass clef. Measure 93 starts with a treble clef. Measure 94 begins with a bass clef. Measure 95 starts with a treble clef. Measure 96 begins with a bass clef. Measure 97 starts with a treble clef. Measure 98 begins with a bass clef. Measure 99 starts with a treble clef. Measure 100 begins with a bass clef.

**PREVIEW**

Low Resolution

**PREVIEW**

**Low Resolution**

