

James Chan

The Long Winter
for solo guitar

2021

duration: ca. 10 minutes

first performance by Bruno Pancek on 10 November 2022 at the Royal Academy of Music

Programme Note

The piece is in three movements with two brief interludes.

The first movement – Nocturne – explores a simple motif with a rocking accompaniment. The second movement – Song begins with a simple melody that then transforms and morphs. The third movement is a set of three variations, with a theme that is only revealed at the end. The three movements are united by a three-note motif.

The two interludes serve as moments of repose.

JC

The Long Winter

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I. Nocturne

Desolato; slow ♩ = c. 52

Guitar *sul tasto* *pp quasi lontano, as if improvising* *nat.* *p poco* *sul pont.* *mf pp* *nat.* *p*

4 *art. harm.* *pp* *3* *nat.* *p* *mf* *pp* **Meno mosso** ♩ = c. 40 *mf cantabile, sempre con rubato*

7 *mf* *p* *3* *3* *3* *3*

9 **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = c. 36 *p più luminoso poco rall.* *a tempo* ♩ = c. 40 *mf* *ppp* *mf* *p* *3* *3* *3* *3*

12 **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = c. 36 *p più luminoso poco rall.* *ppp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

14 **a tempo** ♩ = c. 40 *mf* *poco accel.* **Con moto** ♩ = c. 120 *p* *mf* *mf* *3* *3* *3* *3*

17

p *mf* *p*

20

mf *p* *mf*

23

p *mf* *p cresc.*

25

f marc.

molto rall.

27

pp *p*

Più desolato; slow ♩ = c. 40

30

p *mf* *p* *mf pp*

rall.

33

p *morendo*

Interlude I

Plainly; slow ♩ = c. 48

poco rall.

p *ma sonore, l.v.* *pp* *p*

a tempo

a tempo

poco rall.

molto rall.

5 *mp* *sempre dim.* *p*

II. Song

With simple expression; slow ♩ = c. 54

p

grace notes always fast and on the beat

poco accel.

pppp

almost inaudible

Più mosso ♩ = c. 63

p suddenly brighter, like birdsong

poco

p ————— *mf*

pp bisbigliando

più p

mf

19 *p* *mf*

21 *pp* *p* *poco*

23 *p* *mf*

24 *pp* *bisbigliando* *pp*

25 *p* *mf*

26 *p* *f* *pp*

27 **Tempo 1** ♩ = c. 54 *f* *sonore*

Interlude II

Plainly; slow ♩ = c. 48

poco rall.

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 1 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the instruction "ma sonore, sempre l.v.". Measures 2 and 3 contain triplets of eighth notes. Measure 4 ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A *poco rall.* marking is indicated above the staff.

a tempo

rall.

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-7. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 5 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measures 6 and 7 contain triplets of eighth notes. A *poco* marking is indicated below the staff, and a *rall.* marking is indicated above the staff.

a tempo

rall.

Musical notation for the third system, measures 8-9. Measure 8 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 9 ends with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. A *rall.* marking is indicated above the staff.

III. Variations

Var. I

Crystalline but flowing ♩. = c. 138

sul pont. *mp* sempre in rilievo

pp sempre campanella

poco rall.

a tempo

pp

rall. *a tempo*

pp

poco rall.

a tempo *rall.*

ppp

Var. II

Deciso; steady ♩ = c. 96

nat.

21

f poco marc. *poco* *f* 5

25

mf più cantabile 3 3 *poco*

29

① ④ *pp* *p*

32

f poco marc. *poco* *p tenero* 5

36

mf cantabile ④ *p* *pp* *pp*

39

0 0 0 0 ⑤ ④ ③ ② 0 0 0 0 ⑤ ④ ③ ② ⑤ ④ 0 0 3

Var. III

Ethereal; slow ♩ = c. 72

43 *p a m i* *a m i...* *p* *p* *p* *delicato*

46 *a m i...* *et sim.* *p* *mf* *pp*

49 *come sopra* *p* *mp* *pp*

54 *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

59 *p* *pp* *p* *poco rall.*

Theme

Semplice; moderato ♩ = c. 58

64 *p*

64 *rall.*