Adam Walters

The Temple in the Sea

for Solo Percussionist (Vibraphone and Tassa Drum) and Live or Pre-Recorded Drone
The Temple in the Sea

Instrumentation

Vibraphone
Tassa Drum
Live or Pre-Recorded Drone

Approximate duration: 15.5 minutes

Performance Note

This piece is for one player who, in addition to playing the music, declaims the poetry as written into the score. Whilst the sung sections are notated in the treble clef, they may be performed in whichever octave is most comfortable for the soloist.

The entire piece is to be played with a tanpura drone, either live or pre-recorded. The tuning of this drone should be D2 and A2.

The vibraphone should be positioned centre-stage with the tassa drum on a stand nearby to facilitate rapid changes from one instrument to the other.

At the start of the piece, the soloist should be standing back from the vibraphone until the drone is gradually faded up to a suitable level (quiet but clearly audible). Then, she or he should step up to the instrument and perform the piece. At the end, the soloist should step back away from the vibraphone, lower her/his head as if in prayer, and remain still until the drone is faded down gradually to silence.

Performances of this piece should be ritualistic and meditative in character.
Written for Deborah Sunya Moore Kushmaul
and dedicated to Amina Sidi Khoya

The Temple in the Sea
Sonnet 1

Performer to be standing back from vibraphone until
tanpura drone is faded up, then to step forward and begin.

Lento \( \dot{=}68 \)

Voice

Vibraphone

mf

\( \text{Ped.} \)
Have you ever watched a lotus bloom
Flower warm-blooded as a human from the

mud - the smell of silt and then
A lacy veil rises on its stem To open like a temple
Siewdass Sadhu
Shaped such a space where iridescent blue

Butterflies sunned on skirts of swampy cane

He bicycled with pails of cement each day

He bicycled with pails of cement each day

Wanting only to make a holy place -

But that temple did not remain
Coolies could not build on a cane estate
The company jailed Siewdass and down it came.

Allegro moderato $q=144$

Caleroso $q=60$

Allegro subito $q=144$
Andante \( \frac{\dot{}}{4}=72 \)

\( f \)  

\( \approx \)  

\( \approx \)
Sonnet 2

They say if a boy comes from the great River Ganges to spend a life sifting sugar

A life of ease they call it and he arrives by magic
Wooden sandals on the island of Trinidad

After crossing seven seas of lions and scorpions
Beside demons who capture boys and eat them

They say a trickster has captured him by a mirror
And shipped the body on a clipper to arrive here
Without the village caste that held him
Without the promised welcome of a queen

Allegro vivace \( \text{\textit{$q=120$}} \)

Lento subito \( \text{\textit{$q=60$}} \)

And when they say they next see him
He's behind a cane cart drizzly evening
Swinging a crookstick,
an empty calabash

His skin scored and sooted with cane ash.

Allegro vivace \( \text{\textit{$q=120$}} \)

\textit{attacca}
Interlude

Allegro vivace \( \dot{\ \ \ \ \ 
\} \text{ff q}=120 \)

Interlude

\( b_{\text{Ped.}} \)

\( b_{\text{Ped.}} \)

\( f \)

\( f \)

\( (f) \)

\( (f) \)
Sonnet 3

Tempo primo: Lento \( \dot{\text{J}} = 68 \)

Voice

Tempo primo: Lento \( \dot{\text{J}} = 68 \)
Meno mosso \( \downarrow = 50 \)

Wave upon wave upon wave

So how can a man create a holy space
To grow simple hours of grace

The sea sings

Siewdass Sadhu* come away
From land - no one owns the sea

No one owns the damselfish and blennies

*Sing italicised words on the pitches indicated
No one owns a man

He's liquid as the sea

No one owns his mystery

*Intone italicised words on the pitches indicated

Peace* his neighbours sing — Salaam Salaam*

*Intone italicised words on the pitches indicated

Peace... Sal-aam Sa-laam...
Waist-high in water
Sadhu prays Ram Ram

And while it is true that flowers don't grow
In salt water - only breathing mangrove

Brick by brick Sadhu's temple rose

And reached toward heaven like a lotus.
Sonnet 4

Maestoso
Più mosso \( \dot{\text{=}} 62 \)

We can see Sadhu's koutiah brightening from the Bocas
The fishermen say

It guides us home
Siewdass Sadhu we sail toward you  When we seek comfort Siewdass Sadhu

We carry golden garlands that float  Between scarlet ibis and plovers

Allegro subito $q = 120$

We carry red marriage veils to you
Our mother's ashes and our father's too

A tempo \( \downarrow = 62 \)
As if you were the lotus with the sweet scent  That pulls us in and gives us rest
Lotus of the true self rising from the mud - holy unstained -

petals unfolding

And like that flower, you too are holy - Sadhu

We thank you - Siewdass
Siewdass ["s" sounds elongated]

Performer steps back away from the vibraphone and lowers her/his head as if in prayer. She/he then remains still until drone is faded down gradually to silence.

\( a \ niente \)