

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

Poetry: Sandra Alcosser
Music: Adam Walters

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

Lento ♩=68

Voice

Vibraphone

p

3

6

11

mf
Ped. Ped.

13 Have you ever watched a lotus bloom human from the
Flower warm-blooded as a

Vibes *pp cresc. poco a poco*

Ped.

16 mud - the smell of silt and then stem a temple
A lacy veil rises on its To open like

ff

Ped.

20

ff

Ped.

23

p

Ped.

Siewdass Sadhu
Shaped such a space where iridescent blue

26

Butterflies sunned on skirts of swampy cane

27

Andante ♩ = 72

mf *mp*

And.

He bicycled with pails of cement each day

Pails of sand -

30

deep into the sweating mangrove
Wave upon wave away from home

34

♩ = 72

And.

Wanting only to make a holy place -

35

But that temple did not remain

36

Precipitato ♩ = 120

f sec

Coolies could not build on a cane estate
The company jailed Siewdass and down it came.

38 $\text{♩} = 72$

ff *mp*
Ped.

Allegro moderato $\text{♩} = 144$

40

mf
Ped.

47

mf
Ped.

54

mf
Ped.

59 **Caleroso** $\text{♩} = 60$

poco f
Ped.

62 **Allegro subito** $\text{♩} = 144$

mf
Ped.

66 **Andante** ♩.=72

75

83

90 **♩.=60**

Ped. _____

97

101

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

105

$\text{♩} = 60$

p dolce

3

108

To Tassa drum

3

attaca

Sonnet 2

Allegro vivace ♩=120

Lento subito ♩=60

110

Tassa drum
 (Unaccented notes to be played quietly/"ghosted")

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

114

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

116

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

117

They say a trickster has captured him by a mirror
 And shipped the body on a clipper to arrive here

118

Without the village caste that held him
 Without the promised welcome of a queen

Allegro vivace ♩=120

119

122

Lento subito ♩=60

tr

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

125

His skin scored and sooted with cane ash.

Allegro vivace ♩=120

127

129

Interlude

Allegro vivace ♩=120

132

ff
Ped.

135

Ped.

139

mf
ff
mf
f

145

ff
mf
f

150

ff
mf

155

ff
mf

160

mf

165

mf

170

ff

176

f

181

Ped.

185

190

ff
Ped.

195

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

199

Ped. Ped. Ped.

203

Ped. Ped. Ped.

207

Ped.

211

Ped.

215

Ped.

221

sempre ff

Ped. Ped.

225

Ped. Ped.

Sonnet 3

231 **Tempo primo: Lento** ♩=68

Sew - da - ss Sew - da - ss

Voice

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal line for measures 231-234. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with slurs over the phrases 'Sew - da - ss'. A box labeled 'Voice' is placed below the first measure.

Tempo primo: Lento ♩=68

p *mf*
Ped.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 231-234. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*). Pedal markings are present at the end of the system.

235

Sew - da -

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This block covers measures 235-237. The vocal line continues with 'Sew - da -' in measure 235. The piano accompaniment includes complex textures with triplets and five-note runs. Pedal markings are used throughout the system.

238

- ss Sew-dass Sa - dhu

Ped. *f*

Detailed description: This block covers measures 238-240. The vocal line continues with '- ss' in measure 238 and 'Sew-dass Sa - dhu' in measure 239. The piano accompaniment features a strong dynamic of *f* and includes five-note runs. Pedal markings are present.

241

Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 241-244. The piano part features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs and chords. Pedal markings are used at the beginning and end of the system.

244 **Meno mosso** ♩=50

Sew - dass - ss

p *f*
Ped.

248 **Wave upon wave upon wave**

p *mf* *p* *mf*
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

251

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

p
Ped.

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

253

Siew-dass Sad-hu

p
Ped. Ped.

256 *No one owns a man*

259 *He's liquid as the sea*

260 *No one owns his mystery*

262

Peace his neighbours sing - Salaam Salaam**

**Intone italicised words on the pitches indicated*

264

Waist-high in water
Sadhu prays *Ram Ram**

265

Ram Ram

Ped.

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

267

f

Ped.

268

mp

Ped.

269

ff

Ped.

270

f *mf* *mp* *attacca*

Ped.

Sonnet 4

Maestoso
Più mosso ♩=62

273

Tassa drum Vibes Tassa drum Vibes

ff *fp* *ff* *fp* *ff*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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

276

Ped.

It guides us home

277

Tassa drum Vibes Tassa drum Vibes

mf *ff* *fp* *ff* *fp* *ff*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

281 Siewdass Sadhu we sail toward you When we seek comfort Siewdass Sadhu

pp cresc. poco a poco

mp

283 We carry golden garlands that float Between scarlet ibis and plovers

mp

mp

Ped.

285 **Allegro subito** $\text{♩} = 120$ Tassa drum

ff

Ped.

286 $\text{♩} = 62$ We carry red marriage veils to you Vibes

mp

Ped.

♩=120

287 Tassa drum

ff

Ped.

♩=62

288 Our mother's ashes and our father's too

Vibes

rit.

ff *mp*

Ped. Ped.

A tempo ♩=62

290 As if you were the lotus with the sweet scent That pulls us in and gives us rest

mp

Ped.

291

Ped. Ped.

293 Lotus of the true self rising from the mud - holy unstained -

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

294 petals unfolding

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

295 And like that flower, you too are holy - Sadhu

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

296 We thank you - Siewdass

mf _____ *p* _____
 Ped. _____ Ped. _____

297 Siewdass ["s" sounds elongated]

mf *p*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

298 Siewdass ["s" sounds elongated further] Sadhu [whispered].

mf *p*

Ped. _____

299

mf *p* *mf* *p*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

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.

307

a niente