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String Quartet No. 1 *Shades of Night* (2018)

Kareem Roustom (b. 1971)

Commissioned by the Grand Teton Music Festival

I. Al-Ghurub الغروب
"Sunset"

II. Al-Shafaq الشفق
Twilight "The beginning of the darkness of night. When the darkness becomes confused & obstructs the view of the aspects of things."

III. Al-Ghasaq الغسق
"Fully dark. The night poured down upon the small mountains & covered them with darkness."

IV. Al-Sudfa السدفة
"The commingling of light & darkness. Meaning the 'light' or 'the darkness'; or the darkness and the light are called by one and the same name because each of them comes upon the other".

V. Al-Fahma الفحمة
"The most intense blackness of the night: so called because of its heat; for the first part of the night is hotter than its last part."

VI. Al-Buhra البهرة
Midnight. "The night reached the point when all its stars shone."

VII. Al-Sahar السحر
"The last part of the night. The time of the departure of the night and the coming of the day. The time of the breathing of the dawn."

VIII. Al-Fajr Al-Katheb الفجر الكاذب
False dawn. "That which rises without extending laterally. Which appears black presenting itself like an obstacle."

IX. Al-Fajr Al-Saadeq الفجر الصادق
True dawn. "That which appears rising, and fills the horizon with its whiteness. The day commences."

9

Vln. I *pp* *espress.* *pp* *molto* *sfpp*

Vln. II *pp* *pp* *molto* *sfpp*

Vla. *pp* *pp* *molto* *sfpp*

Vc. *pp* *pp* *molto* *sfpp*



Subito calmo ♩ = 52

11

Vln. I *f* *p* *teneramente ed espress.*

Vln. II *f* *pp* *sul tasto* *p*

Vla. *f* *pp* *sul tasto* *p*

Vc. *f* *pp* *sul tasto* *p*



15

Vln. I *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vln. II *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. *pp* *p* *pp* *p*



“Twilight.

The beginning of the darkness of night.
When the darkness becomes confused &
obstructs the view of the aspects of things.”

Meno mosso ♩ = 72

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

48

52

55

Senza misura

agitamento

67

arco poco s.p.

molto s.p.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mp* *pp* *ppp*

III. الغسق Al-Ghasaq

"Fully dark.

The night poured down
upon the small mountains and
covered them with darkness."

Misterioso ♩ = 80

72

molto s.p.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

75

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Energico ♩ = 63 - 76

[illegible]

92

Vln. I

ord. pizz. arco

sf *f marc.* *sf* *pp* *molto*

Vln. II

sf *f marc.* *sf* *pp* *molto*

Vla.

ord. pizz. arco

sf *f marc.* *p* *f*

Vc.

ord. pizz. arco

sf *f marc.* *p* *f*

95

Vln. I

f *sfp* *f* *più f* *ff*

Vln. II

f *sfp* *f* *più f* *ff*

Vla.

arco 6 molto s.p. *p cresc.* *f* *più f* *ff*

Vc.

arco 6 molto s.p. *p cresc.* *f* *più f* *ff*

97

Vln. I

arco ord. *sff* *pp* *mf sub.* *pp* *p*

Vln. II

arco ord. *sff* *pp* *mf sub.* *pp* *mf*

Vla.

arco ord. *sff* *pp* *mf sub.* *pp* *pizz.* *sf sempre*

Vc.

arco ord. *sff* *pp* *mf sub.* *pp V.S.* *p*

Con moto ♩ = 116

espressivo

* Wait for others to complete their phrases on beat 4 before playing down beat of next measure.

V. الفحمة Al-Fahma

"Like coal. The most intense blackness
of the night & the hottest of summer nights."

Vivace e agitato ♩ = 144 - 168

121

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II

Vla. *arco ord. no accent; half fingered**

Vc. *pp*

123

Vln. I *arco no accent; half fingered** *pp* *mf*

Vln. II *pp* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

126

Vln. I *smf* *pp* *mf sub.*

Vln. II *pp sub.* *smf* *pp* *mf sub.*

Vla. *pp sub.* *smf* *pp* *mf sub.*

Vc. *pp sub.* *smf* *mf sub.*

*When 'x' shaped note head is used depress finger on string with greater pressure than that need to produce a natural harmonic but with less pressure than that needed for a regularly fingered pitch. Subsequent standard note heads indicate a fully fingered pitch.

128

Vln. I *pp sub.* *mf* *pp sub.* *smf*

Vln. II *pp sub.* *mf* *pp sub.* *smf* *pp*

Vla. *pp sub.* *mf* *pp sub.* *smf* *pp*

Vc. *pp sub.* *mf* *smf* *pp*

130

Vln. I *mf sub.* *smf* *p* *mf sub.* *f*

Vln. II *mf sub.* *pp sub.* *smf* *p* *mf sub.* *f*

Vla. *mf sub.* *pp sub.* *smf* *p* *mf sub.* *f* (Sul C)

Vc. *mf sub.* *pp sub.* *smf* *mf sub.* *f*

133

Vln. I *p sub.* *col legno* *ord.* *col legno* *ord.*

Vln. II *p sub.* (1/2 finger near nut)

Vla. *p sub.* *col legno* *ord.* *col legno* *ord.*

Vc. *p sub.* *col legno* *ord.* *col legno* *ord.*

VI. البهرة Al-Buhra
 "The middle of the night.
 The night reached the point when
 all its stars shone."

251

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

p

p

p

269 pizz.

Vln. I

p *ma ben marc.*

Vln. II

p

Vla.

p

Vc.

p

arco

272

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

più p

pp

p

pp

più p

pp

VII. السحر Al-Saḥar

"The last part of the night. The time of the departure
of the night and the coming of the day."

Con moto ♩ = ca. 76

275

Vln. I *pp* (sul pont.)

Vln. II *pp* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

280

Vln. I *ppp* *mf cresc.*

Vln. II *pizz.* *mf cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.* Sul C Sul G

Vc. *cresc.* Sul C Sul G

284

Vln. I *ff* *pizz. ord.* *sff*

Vln. II *ff* *pizz. ord.* *sff* *arco ord.* *mf dim.* *pp*

Vla. *ff* *pizz. ord.* *sff* *arco* *mf dim.* *pp*

Vc. *ff* *pizz. ord.* *sff* *arco* *dim.*

VIII. الفجر الكاذب Al-fajr al-kātheb

"False dawn; That which rises without extending laterally.
Which appears black presenting itself like an obstacle."

306 *pesante*

Vln. I *f* *p* *pp*

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *pizz.; pesante* *sf* *sf* *mf* *mp* *p*

Meno mosso ♩ = ca. 52

311 *espress.*

Vln. I *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Vln. II *p* *mp*

Vla. *espress.* *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

sul tasto *tr* *5*

ten. *p*

arco; sul tasto *tr* *5* *p*

315

Vln. I *p* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mp*

ord. *5* *tr* *3*

ord. *3*

IX. الفجر الصادق Al-fajr al-sādeq

"True dawn. The light of the morning. Because it is a
cleaving of the darkness from before the light.
It is the redness of the sun in the darkness of the night.
It appears rising, and fills the horizon with its whiteness.
The day commences."

Maestoso ♩ = 58
senza vib.

325

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *p*

329

Vln. I *pppp*

Vln. II *pppp*

Vla. *ord.*
p

Vc.

con sord.; ord.
p lontano

con sord.; ord.
p lontano

334

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

337

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

340

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

343

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.