

Steven Webb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Webb', with a horizontal line underneath.

String Quartet No. 2
Finite

Program Notes:

Our planet is approaching a precipice. Climate change, deforestation, and pollution are leading to mass extinctions, natural disasters, and human migration. We plunder the earth's resources, consumed by greed. And yet, these resources are finite. Our planet is finite.

Finite should be performed with the aggression of our self-induced destruction and the harshness of nature's resulting turmoil. This should contrast the 'lament to the earth' at letter C.

The Silent Sea

Another vessel sheds the chrome
of its silver mile until a mile
meanders into three, triples again

over the reef. Nothing can breathe
under oil, nor register that
dark membrane's slick

over sight. We were the first
cracking the hull of the earth
open, our foolish husbandry

a metallurgy that's brimmed
with false gold too often
we can talk, and talk, and talk

but a ship in space, manned
by non-thinking from non-feeling,
says absolutely nothing at all.

— Rachael Boast

About the Composer:

Originally from South Africa, Steven Webb (b.1989) is a Toronto based performer, composer, and audio engineer.

Steven has written music for a wide variety of documentaries, films, and commercials, as well as for contemporary dance and classical performance. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by: The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, Exultate Chamber Singers, Prairie Voices Choir, among many others.



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Finite

Steven Webb (b. 1989)

Aggressive ♩=112

poco sul pont.

Violin I *ff*

Violin II *ff* *poco sul pont.* *gliss.*

Viola *ff* *poco sul pont.*

Violoncello *ff* *poco sul pont.*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin I part begins with a *ff* dynamic and a *poco sul pont.* instruction. The Violin II part has a *ff* dynamic and a *poco sul pont.* instruction, ending with a *gliss.* (glissando). The Viola part also starts with *ff* and *poco sul pont.*. The Violoncello part has a *ff* dynamic and a *poco sul pont.* instruction. The music is in 12/8 time and includes various articulations like accents and trills.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *ff* *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin I part has a *tr* (trill) marking. The Violin II part has a *tr* marking and a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking. The Viola part has a *pizz.* marking. The Violoncello part has a *pizz.* marking, followed by an *arco* (arco) marking, and a dynamic change from *ff* to *p*. The music continues with various articulations and dynamics.

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Musical score for measures 6-8, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 6:** Vln. I and Vln. II play *sul pont.* with dynamics *p* and *ff*. Vln. I has a five-fingered slur. Vln. II has a *b tr* marking.
- Measure 7:** Vln. I and Vln. II continue with *ff* dynamics. Vln. I has a five-fingered slur. Vln. II has a *b tr* marking.
- Measure 8:** Vln. I and Vln. II play *mf*. Vln. I has a five-fingered slur. Vln. II has a *b tr* marking.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 6-7 are silent. Measure 8 features *arco sul pont.* with dynamics *f* and glissando markings.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 6-7 are silent. Measure 8 features *sul pont.* with dynamics *f* and five-fingered slurs.

Musical score for measures 9-11, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 9:** Vln. I has *pizz.* and *mp* dynamics. Vln. II has *flautando* and *p* dynamics. Vln. II has *tr* markings. Vln. I has *mp* dynamics. Vln. II has *p* dynamics.
- Measure 10:** Vln. I has *mp* dynamics. Vln. II has *flautando* and *p* dynamics. Vln. II has *tr* markings. Vln. I has *mp* dynamics. Vln. II has *p* dynamics.
- Measure 11:** Vln. I has *mp* dynamics. Vln. II has *flautando* and *p* dynamics. Vln. II has *tr* markings. Vln. I has *mp* dynamics. Vln. II has *p* dynamics.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 9-10 feature *pizz.* dynamics. Measure 11 features *arco ord.* with dynamics *mf*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 9-10 are silent. Measure 11 features *ord.* with dynamics *mp* and five-fingered slurs.

11

arco
ord.

mf

gliss.

gliss.

p

f

ord.

ff

mf

ff

norm.

tr

mf

ff

13

ff

f

f

pizz.

f

f

tr

5

Musical score for measures 15-16, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Vln. I:** Measure 15: Treble clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Measure 16: Treble clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *mf*.
- Vln. II:** Measure 15: Treble clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Measure 16: Treble clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *p* in measure 15, *mf* in measure 16.
- Vla.:** Measure 15: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Measure 16: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Dynamics: *mf* in measure 15, *ff* in measure 16. Includes *arco* marking.
- Vc.:** Measure 15: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Measure 16: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Dynamics: *mf*.

Musical score for measures 17-18, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Vln. I:** Measure 17: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Measure 18: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *f*. Includes *gliss. gliss.* markings.
- Vln. II:** Measure 17: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Measure 18: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *f*. Includes *gliss. gliss.* markings.
- Vla.:** Measure 17: Bass clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Measure 18: Bass clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Dynamics: *fp* in measure 17, *f* in measure 18, *mf* in measure 18.
- Vc.:** Measure 17: Bass clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Measure 18: Bass clef, 12/8 time signature. Notes: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3. Dynamics: *f* in measure 17, *mf* in measure 18.

19

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

mp

f

pizz.

arco

f

mp

f

tr

21

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

f

fff

pizz.

mf

mf

f

23

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

gliss.

gliss.

f

ff

p

25

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

arco

tr

f

f

f

p

f

5

A ♩ = 86

27

Vln. I *f* gliss. 5 sec. *pp*

Vln. II 5 sec. *mp* *mf*

Vla. *ff* 5 sec. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *fff* 5 sec. *mp*

32

Vln. I // *p*

Vln. II // *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* // *p* *mf* 2

Vc. // *p* *mp*

37

Violin I: *mf* (measures 37-38), *p* (measures 39-40)

Violin II: *p* (measures 37-38), *p* (measures 39-40)

Viola: *p* (measure 37), *pp* (measure 38), *p* (measures 39-40), *mp* (measure 41), *mf* (measure 42)

Violoncello: *mp* (measures 37-40)

Measures 37-40: This system contains measures 37 through 40. The Violin I part begins with a melodic line in measure 37, marked *mf*, and continues in measure 38 with a second finger fingering. In measures 39 and 40, the Violin I part is marked *p*. The Violin II part has a sustained note in measure 37, marked *p*, and another in measure 39, also marked *p*. The Viola part has a sustained note in measure 37, marked *p*, and a *pp* dynamic in measure 38. In measures 39 and 40, the Viola part is marked *p*. The Violoncello part has a sustained note in measure 37, marked *mp*.

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Violin I: *mp* (measures 41-42), *mf* (measure 42), *p* (measures 43-44)

Violin II: *mp* (measures 41-42), *mf* (measure 42), *p* (measures 43-44)

Viola: *tr* (measure 41), *mp* (measures 42-43), *mf* (measure 43), *p* (measures 44-45)

Violoncello: *f* (measures 41-42), *fp* (measures 43-44), *mf* (measures 45-46)

Measures 41-45: This system contains measures 41 through 45. The Violin I part has a melodic line in measure 41, marked *mp*, which continues in measure 42, marked *mf*, and then in measure 43, marked *p*. The Violin II part has a melodic line in measure 41, marked *mp*, which continues in measure 42, marked *mf*, and then in measure 43, marked *p*. The Viola part has a trill in measure 41, marked *tr*, and a melodic line in measure 42, marked *mp*, which continues in measure 43, marked *mf*, and then in measure 44, marked *p*. The Violoncello part has a melodic line in measure 41, marked *f*, which continues in measure 42, marked *f*, and then in measure 43, marked *fp*, and finally in measure 44, marked *mf*.