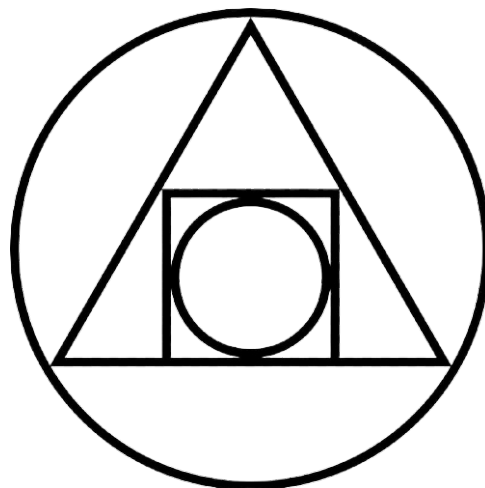


Candace Bustard

The Language of the Elements

for solo piano

Full score
2021



Contents

Soft Rains	1
Aura of a Cave	7
Dancing Sparks	10
Drifting on an Autumn Breeze	15

Program Notes

The Language of the Elements is a highly gestural piece depicting how the elements 'speak' to us through our everyday experience of them. Translating the core attributes of each element into musical gestures, these four movements depict a characteristic of each element. For water, as it is experienced in the first movement, "Soft Rains", the precision of the staccato with the grace of the melodic gestures emulate the rain drops dancing across the ground and flowing along the ground. The second movement, "Aura of a Cave" emulates the earth as a constant: solid and dense. However, in a cave the dense rock is hollow and resonant with many different surfaces which are gestured in the music with textural elements from the extended techniques. Fire is powerful, destructive, and often sporadic as it spreads. The third movement "Dancing Sparks" is sharp and sporadic as the sparks that fly from a fire. Droning notes represent the spreading of the fire as the sparks continue to fly. The final movement, "Drifting on an Autumn Breeze" contrasts the force and aggression of the previous movement. This free and floating melody waxes and wanes just as a breeze casting a leaf into the current of air. With some tension in the middle, the leaf's journey experiences the chill of an early frost before settling in its resting place for the winter.

DURATION [14 ' 10]

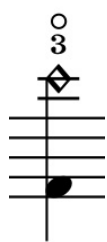
Performance Notes

Soft Rains

"x" noteheads indicate strings are to be plucked using finger nails or guitar pick. "x" indicates the sounding pitches (same as played pitch).

Aura of a Cave

This movement should use the resonance of the piano to its' fullest. The damper pedal should be used, and only change when indicated in the music. Duration of pitches and rests are suggestions. The goal is to take time between gestures but use the resonance to discourage complete silence.



These indicate harmonics on the piano. The solid notehead indicates the key to be hit, and the number indicates the harmonic, and the diamond notehead indicates the sounding pitch. Using a rubber headed mallet to touch the harmonics allows the performer to remain seated and permits the use of both the sostenuto and damper pedal. This technique, though awkward, becomes relatively easy with some practice and allows seamless transitions. However, if a mallet is inaccessible, the performer can chose to leave out the silently depressed chords and forgo the use of the sostenuto pedal.

Noteheads in brackets – Indicate these pitches are to be whistled, sung, or hummed into the piano.

"+" signs over notehead – Indicate these pitches are to be muted. Muting is done by placing hand on the strings before the bridge. In m. 11 – 14, play all notes with left hand and mute strings with right hand.

"x" noteheads below the staff, without ledger lines – Indicate the action of hitting the inner body of the piano with the mallet. The performer can use both ends (rubber and wood) of the mallet to strike and create different sounds and textures. Durations are approximate, the notation indicates the overall gesture.

Dancing Sparks

Durations of rests are free as are the duration of tremolos, particularly at "Presto".

Notes with no notehead indicate repeat the pitch and articulation as the previously shown notehead.

Perusal Score Only

The Language of the Elements

1. Soft Rains

Candace Bustard

Senza misura, freely

8va

con pedale

(8)

Light and relaxed ♩ = 50

pp

sim 8va

8va

cres. 8va

*strings are plucked using nails or guitar pick

14

mp
8va

17

sweetly
8va

p
8ba

20

8va

mp
8va

23

mp

mp

26

rit.....

mp
8va

Soft Rains

a tempo

28

mp

30

cresc.

33

mf

34

36

mp cresc.

accel.

39

Presto, senza misura

41

[41]

[41] **rit.**..... **Tempo I**

43

senza misura

on strings

8va

m.d.

m.s.

8va

8va

pp

8va

p

8va

mp

52

54

Musical notation for measures 54-55. Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth notes and chords. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the end of measure 55.

56

Musical notation for measures 56-57. Treble clef continues the melodic line. Bass clef continues the accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the end of measure 57.

58

8va

Musical notation for measures 58-59. Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth notes and chords. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the end of measure 59.

60

(8)

Musical notation for measures 60-63. Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth notes and chords. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the end of measure 63.

64

(8)

8va

p

Musical notation for measures 64-66. Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth notes and chords. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the end of measure 66.

Hold pedal to the end

67

Musical notation for measures 67-69. Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth notes and chords. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

69

72

con pedale, laissez vibrer

2. Aura of a Cave

Slow and resonant, senza misura

Whistled, sung, or hummed into piano

silently depress secure with sostenuto ped.

(sempre sostenuto)

3

(mute strings)

5

mp

silently depress keys

8ba

sempre sost..

use mallet, rapid gliss. over strings

[7']

10 *using mallet, hit inside piano

p *mf*

11 mute with m.d. m.s.

senza sost.

8ba_1

17

21

mp

24

use mallet, rapid gliss. over strings

*inside piano [5']

silently depress keys

sempre sost.

gliss

[24]

on strings

on keys

*use mallet to hit the inside body of the piano by the low register strings. Use both wood and rubber part of mallet.

26

31

pp

use mallet, rapid gliss.
over strings

laissez vibrer

3. Dancing Sparks

senza misura, forceful and sporadic ♩ = 120

ff

p

f

mp

fp

mp

mf

f

rit..... a tempo

p *f*

8va

p *mf cresc.*

8va

tr

f *mp*

tr

cresc. *f*

fp *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mf*

First system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat), 3/4 time. The piece begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a series of chords and eighth-note patterns, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. The system concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Second system of musical notation. The right hand continues with eighth-note patterns and triplets. The left hand features a prominent triplet accompaniment. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano (*mp*) to forte (*f*).

Third system of musical notation. The right hand has a triplet of eighth notes followed by a *dim.* (diminuendo) section and a *p cresc.* (piano crescendo) section. The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes. The system ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A bracket labeled "15" spans the final measures.

Fourth system of musical notation. The tempo is marked "a tempo". The right hand has a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand features a triplet of eighth notes and a series of chords. Dynamics include *mp*, *sfz* (sforzando), and *ff* (fortissimo).

Fifth system of musical notation. The tempo is marked "Presto" with a metronome marking of 100 (♩ = 100). The right hand has a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand features a triplet of eighth notes and a series of chords. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte).

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and triplets, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

The second system continues the piece. The right hand has a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The left hand features a bass line with triplets and slurs. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (*mf*), piano (*p*), sforzando (*sfz*), and *sim.* (sostenuto). The key signature remains one flat.

The third system features a more complex texture. The right hand includes trills (*tr*) and triplets. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with triplets. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to piano (*p*). The key signature is one flat.

The fourth system shows a melodic line in the right hand with slurs and a dynamic of *sfz*. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment and triplets. Dynamics include *mf* and *dim.* (diminuendo). The key signature is one flat.

The fifth system features a melodic line in the right hand with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The left hand has a bass line with triplets. An *8va* (octave) marking is present above the right hand. The key signature is one flat.

8va⁻¹

sfz *f*

a tempo

f

5

5

This musical score consists of three systems. The first system has two staves (treble and bass clef) with a *8va⁻¹* marking. The second system has two staves (bass clef) with a *sfz* marking above the first staff and an *f* marking above the second staff. The third system has two staves (bass clef) with a **a tempo** marking above the first staff and *f* markings above both staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

4. Drifting on an Autumn Breeze

Lifting off, Delicately

pp cresc.

con molto pedale

8

This musical score is for the piece '4. Drifting on an Autumn Breeze'. It begins with the instruction 'Lifting off, Delicately'. The first system has two staves (treble and bass clef) with a *pp cresc.* marking above the first staff and a *con molto pedale* marking below the second staff. The second system has two staves (treble and bass clef) with a measure number '8' above the first staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

14

7 7 7 7 7

19

molto rit......

mp *p*

7 7 4 7

Relaxed, Floating $\text{♩} = 50$

23

7 7

26

mp

mp

29

v

32

35

38

41

A Turbulent Breeze

mf

44

accel.....a tempo

47

accel.....

49

Musical notation for measures 49-50. Treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

a tempo

51

Musical notation for measures 51-54. Treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

accel.

53

Musical notation for measures 53-54. Treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

a tempo

55

Musical notation for measures 55-56. Treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

57

Musical notation for measures 57-58. Treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

59

Musical notation for measures 59-62. Treble and bass staves with notes and rests.

rit.....

62

65

Tempo II

Lilting ♩ = 60

p

70

75

79

rit.....

dim.

pp

laissez vibrer

Perusal Score Only