

MARK GODDARD

The Heat of the Sun

A Dream Cycle for Strings

Op. 46

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- The work is scored for the following instrumentalists:

7 x Violin I
6 x Violin II
4 x Viola
4 x Cello
2 x Double Bass

These numbers may be advantageously increased by up-to 50%

- If the above forces are not readily available, the work can be performed in a reduced version, with bare minimums of:

5 x Violin I
4 x Violin II
3 x Viola
3 x Cello
2 x Double Bass

Alternative parts are required.

- Mutes are required for most instruments.
- Metronome marks are merely indications of tempi and are not to be taken as gospel.
- It is assumed that at least one of the Double Basses is equipped to play 'low C'.

Total duration: about 20 minutes.

I 6:45
II 6:00
III 3:30
IV 3:30

*Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.*

William Shakespeare
Cymbeline Act IV, Scene II

PROGRAMME NOTE

The initial catalyst for 'The Heat of the Sun' was Shakespeare's famous poem about death, with further inspiration provided by the desert scenes in Peter Weir's 1981 film 'Gallipoli'.

The music alternates material representing the desert sun, with various day dreams (in the form of 'episodes'). From the outset we are exposed to the oppressively dry desert heat and throughout the four movements the sun reoccurs, piercing the progressively more diverse and distracted dreams, which by the final movement have become fragmented and wholly retrospective.

'The Heat of the Sun', completed in June 1982, was awarded the Capital Radio Composition Prize. The first performance was given by the Wren Orchestra of London, conducted by James Judd at St John's, Smith Square the following year — a performance which was subsequently broadcast on Capital Radio.

See www.markgoddard.online for further information.