

# **Small Holes in the Silence**

*for the NZ Trio*

# Sample score

Rosa Elliott

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## Performance Notes

### Whispering:

Whispering should be breathy, but projected. The main concern is not the intelligibility of the words, but the sound effect produced.

### Whistling:

The octave of the whistled melody may be adjusted to better suit the performer if necessary. Aim for a balanced blend between the violin and whistling.

### Piano Pedalling:

The pedal is held for long durations in this piece. To avoid long pedal lines beneath the staves, the following symbols are used to indicate the activation and release of the pedal.

*Ped.* \*

# Sample score

## Programme Note

Commissioned in 1979, Ralph Hotere's three-panel artwork, *Rain*, is the product of his creative friendship with the acclaimed poet, Hone Tuwhare. Utilising Tuwhare's poem of the same title, Hotere utilises both text and shape to express the intimate metaphors of the natural phenomenon.

*Small Holes in the Silence* seeks to extend this cross-disciplinary relationship, drawing upon both works by Hotere and Tuwhare. The work is inspired by Hotere's juxtaposition of straight, measured lines with organic drips of paint that follow the structure and emotion of the poetry. Similarly, *Small Holes in the Silence* is marked with persistent strokes, fluid lines, and Tuwhare's dispersed text.



I CAN HEAR YOU  
MAKING SMALL HOLES  
IN THE SILENCE  
RAIN  
IF I WERE DEAF  
THE PRESSURE OF YOUR HEAVY  
HANDS WOULD BE YOUR  
HANDS THAT

AND I  
SHOULD KNOW YOU  
BY THE RISE OF YOUR  
OR I WERE BLIND  
THE SOMETHING  
SPECIAL SMILES OF YOUR  
THE STEADY  
RHYTHMIC SOUND  
YOU MAKE  
WHEN THE WIND BLOWS

BUT IF I  
SHOULD NOT HEAR  
SMELLING FEEL OR SEE  
YOU  
YOU WOULD STILL  
DEFINE ME  
DISPERSE ME  
WASH OVER ME  
RAIN

Ralph Hotere - Rain

**Rain by Hone Tuwhare**

I can hear you  
making small holes  
in the silence  
rain

If I were deaf  
the pores of my skin  
would open to you  
and shut

And I  
should know you  
by the lick of you  
if I were blind

the something  
special smell of you  
when the sun cakes  
the ground

the steady  
drum-roll sound  
you make  
when the wind drops

But if I  
should not hear  
smell or feel or see  
you

you would still  
define me  
disperse me  
wash over me  
rain

Sample score

# Small Holes in the Silence

Hone Tuwhare

Rosa Elliott  
University of Auckland

♩=90 *gentle, mysterious*

## Vapour

Violin *whisper*  
"rain"  
ord.  
3  
PPP  
p  
m.s.p.

Violoncello  
"rain"

Piano  
pp  
*whisper*  
"rain"  
una corda, ped. ad. lib.

# Sample score

9  
Vln. *gliss.*  
pp  
ord.  
3  
pp  
p  
Vc. ord.  
3  
pp  
p  
gliss.  
gliss.  
pp  
ord.  
Pno. 3  
3  
3

15 *gliss.* *mp* *s.p.* *grad. gliss, legato* *p* *pp* *ord.*

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

20 *ord.* *p* *3*

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*m.s.p.* *grad. gliss, legato* *mp* *p*

24 *3* *m.s.p.* *gliss.*

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Sample score

28

Vln. *ord.* *m.s.p.* *pp*

Vc. *mp* *m.s.p.*

Pno.

31

Vln. *ord.* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *p* *pizz.*

Pno. *mf* *5* *5*

*Red. tre corda*

34

Vln.

Vc. *Sul G col legno batt.* *gliss.* *whisper "rain"* *mf*

Pno.

37

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*whisper*

"I can hear you" "I can hear you"

*pp* "I can hear you"

40

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

"I can hear you"

43

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*whisper*

"rain" "rain"

*pp* "rain"

*8va*

*p* 5