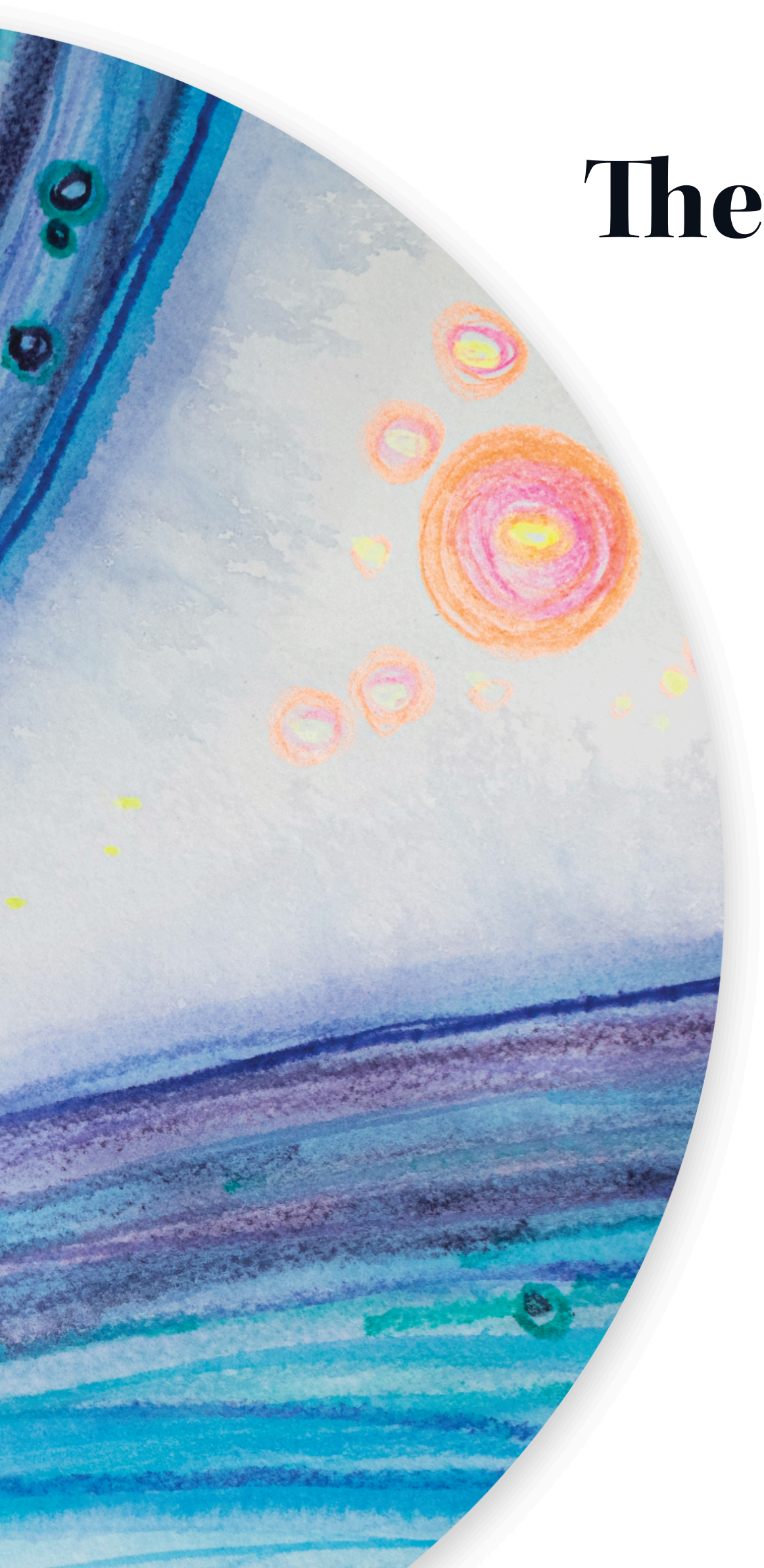

The Burnished Tide

Orchestra

LUKE CARLSON MUSIC

The Burnished Tide

Orchestra

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The Burnished Tide

Orchestra

(2014)

Duration: 14 minutes

Transposing Score

Recipient of the 2013 Jacob Druckman Prize. Commissioned by the Aspen Music Festival, Robert Spano, Music Director. Premiered by the Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra (Robert Spano, conductor) on July 23, 2014, and performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (JoAnn Falletta, conductor) at the 2015 Edward T. Cone Composition Institute.

LUKE CARLSON MUSIC

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Instrumentation

3 Flutes (3rd doubles Piccolo)
3 Oboes (3rd doubles English Horn)
3 Clarinets in B♭ (3rd doubles Bass Clarinet)
3 Bassoons (3rd doubles Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani
Percussion (3 players):
Player 1: Marimba, 3 Wood Blocks, Bongos, Bass Drum, Chimes, Crotales, Suspended Cymbal, Large Tam-Tam
Player 2: Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Suspended Cymbal, Bongos, Snare Drum, 3 Tom-Toms
Player 3: Vibraphone, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Medium Tam-Tam

Harp
Piano
Celesta

Strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Double Bass)

Program Notes

The time of day when the sun is low in the horizon—casting long shadows and imparting richly colored tones—is called the "golden hour" by artists and photographers. In an attempt to capture an image before this optimal light is lost for the day, the artist works with great urgency to maximize the limited time. Inspired by this notion, *The Burnished Tide* is intended to portray this sense of excited urgency with quasi-perpetual motion and continuous energy, as if the music only has a brief time to live its life.

The piece is constructed around a single harmonic sonority: a twelve-note chord that consists of four three-note triads, two minor and two major. This twelve-note chord is played as a single sonority at the beginning and end of the piece, while the intervening sections feature an unfolding of the twelve-note chord into its triadic components.

The work flows in a single arc, consisting of distinct but connected sections of intensity, introspection, playfulness, and aggressiveness. The word "tide" in the title is more of a reference to a length of time—the period of optimal light—than the flow of water, though the imagery of advancing and receding waves can certainly be found in the music. "Burnished" literally means "polished by rubbing" or secondarily, "enhanced or perfected." Utilizing a variety of orchestral colors and instrumentations, my intent is to support this imagery by projecting a sense of relentless energy and unbridled excitement.

Transposing Score

to Robert Spano and the Aspen Music Festival

THE BURNISHED TIDE

for orchestra

Luke Carlson

Powerful ♩ = 144

Piccolo

Flutes 1 2

Oboes 1 2 3

B♭ Clarinets 1 2 3

Bassoons 1 2 3

Horns 1 2 3 4

Trumpets 1 2 3

Trombones 1 2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1 — Mba. — hard mallets

Percussion 2 — Toms — wooden sticks

Percussion 3 — Bs. Dr.

Harp

Piano

Powerful ♩ = 144

Violin I — non div., pizz., non arp.

Violin II — non div., pizz., non arp.

Viola — non div., pizz., non arp.

Cello — non div., pizz., non arp.

Double Bass — pizz.

PERUSAL SCORE · DO NOT PERFORM

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Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2 3

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2

Hn. 3 4

Tpt. 1 2 3

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

1

Perc. 2

3

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

a 2

a 2

1.

Mba.

Toms

Bs. Dr.

div. in 3 by stand

div. in 3 by stand

div. in 3 by stand

div. in 3 by stand

PERUSAL SCORE · DO NOT REFORM

11

Fl. 1 2 3

Ob. 1 2 3

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 — 1

Tpt. 2 — 3

Tbn. 1 2 3

Tuba

Perc. 1 — 2 — 3

Bs. Dr.

Vln. I div. in 3 (by stand)

Vln. II div. in 3 (by stand)

Vla. div. in 3 (by stand)

Vc.

D.B.

PERUSAL SCORE. DO NOT PERFORM

18

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2 3
B♭ Cl. 1 2 3
Bsn. 1 2 3
Hn. 1 2 3 4
Tpt. 1 2 3
Tbn. 2
Mba. 1
Perc. Toms 2
Bs. Dr. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla. div. in 3 (by stand)
Vc. div. in 3 (by stand)
D.B.

a 2
a 3
pizz.
arco

PERUSAL SCORE · DO NOT PERFORM

24

A

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2 3

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn. 1 2 3

1

2

Hn.

3

4

1

Tpt. 2

3

1

Tbn.

2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

1

Mba.

Perc. 2

Toms

3

Bs. Dr.

Hp.

Pno.

A

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

div. in 3 by stand

unis.

arco

1.

non div., pizz., non arp.

PERUSAL SCORE. DO NOT PERFORM

29

Fl. 1 2 3

Ob. 1 2 3

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 3

Tpt. 1 2 3

1

Perc. 2

3

Bs. Dr.

Mba.

Toms

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I div. in 3 (by stand)

Vln. II div. in 3 (by stand)

Vla. div. in 3 (by stand)

Vc.

D.B. div.

PERUSAL SCORE · DO NOT PERFORM