

**chrysalis:
in memoriam Olivier Messiaen**

for eleven winds

Christopher Coleman

duration ca. 9 minutes

Instrumentation:

Flute, Alto flute

Oboe, English horn

2 bassoons, Contrabassoon

2 Bb clarinets, Bb bass clarinet/Bb clarinet, Bb contrabass clarinet/Bb clarinet

Programme note

I first heard *Quatour pour la fin du temps* (Quartet for the End of Time) by French composer Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992, in my late teens, as I was beginning my education as a composer. The music was so moving, so powerful and mystical, and seemed such a clear and true picture of something beyond this reality that I was immediately transfixed. The story of the quartet—Messiaen composed it when he was interned at a German prison camp during World War II—made it even more profound. I began to study his music and his writings-- *Technique de mon langage musical* (The Technique of My Musical Language)—and discovered a profound affinity; our mutual love of birdsong, of extended harmony, of rhythmic vitality and even of palindrome. While I did not use Messiaen's techniques directly, they demonstrated potentials that I had not previously conceived.

A chrysalis is the hard shell surrounding a pupa formed as a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. In this piece I use short quotations from the solo movements of *Quatour pour la fin du temps*, especially *Abîme des oiseaux* (Abyss of the birds) but also fragments from *Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus* (Praise to the eternity of Jesus) and *Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus* (Praise to the immortality of Jesus) to generate a prolonged organic climb toward transcendence. I imagine Messiaen's human body, encased deep in the Earth, gradually metamorphosing into pure, luminous, spirit.

chrysalis was commissioned by the Hong Kong Composers' Guild for the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata.

(notes by the composer)

Christopher Coleman

Christopher Coleman (b. 1958, Atlanta, Georgia, USA), composer, conductor, and trombonist, is currently composition coordinator of the Hong Kong Baptist University Department of Music, where he has taught for the past 26 years.

Coleman's works range from orchestral tone poems to large-scale multimedia improvisation pieces to works for symphonic band, chamber ensembles, instrumental solos, and voice. A prize-winning composer, he has received numerous commissions and grants, including recent commissions from local groups the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata, the Hong Kong Wind Philharmonia, the Hong Kong Composers' Guild, RTHK Radio 4, and the Hong Kong University Grants Committee.

His music is published by Vanderbilt Music, Maecenas Music, Theodore Presser, Ensemble Publications, C. Alan Publications and Crown Music Press.

A trans-media artist, Christopher Coleman also works in painting, sculpture and computer graphics. He is a founding member of People's Liberation Improv, Hong Kong's leading comedy improv group, and has performed with them in Beijing, Seoul, Manila, and Macau as well as Hong Kong.

Transposed Score

chrysalis:

Christopher Coleman

in memoriam Olivier Messiaen

commissioned by the Hong Kong Composers' Guild for the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata

Lent, tres expressif et triste ♩= 112

A

Flute

Alto Flute

Oboe

English Horn

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Contrabassoon

Clarinet in B $\flat$ 1

Clarinet in B $\flat$ 2

Bass Clarinet

Contrabass Clarinet

ppp

pp

8 $\flat$

p

3

3

3

chrysalis

B

chrysalis

C

3

20

Fl.

mf

mp

5

3

p

f

6

6

6

3

A. Fl.

mf

mp

5

p

f

6

6

6

3

Ob.

f

E. Hn.

f

Bsn. 1

f

Bsn. 2

f

C. Bn.

f

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

mf

mp

p

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

mf

mp

p

f

B. Cl.

mf

mp

p

f

Cb. Cl.

mf

mp

p

f

chrysalis

4

29

Fl.

sf

6

A. Fl.

sf

6

Ob.

sf

E. Hn.

3

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

pppp

B. Cl.

ppp

8 $\flat$

Cb. Cl.

ppp

ppp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled 'chrysalis'. It is written for a woodwind and brass ensemble. The woodwinds include Flute (Fl.), Alto Flute (A. Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), and English Horn (E. Hn.). The brass includes Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2), Contrabassoon (C. Bn.), B-flat Clarinet 1 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1), B-flat Clarinet 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 2), B Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Contrabass Clarinet (Cb. Cl.). The score is in 4/4 time and consists of 29 measures. The woodwinds play a melodic line with sixteenth-note runs and triplets. The brass provides harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Dynamics range from fortissimo (sf) to pianissimo (pppp). The score is marked with a '4' at the top left and a '29' at the top left of the first measure.

chrysalis

5

D

Musical score for the piece "chrysalis", page 5. The score is written for a woodwind ensemble and includes the following instruments: Flute (Fl.), Alto Flute (A. Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E. Hn.), Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2), Contrabassoon (C. Bn.), B♭ Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), B♭ Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), B Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Contrabass Clarinet (Cb. Cl.).

The score is divided into measures, with time signatures changing from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The key signature is D major, indicated by the "D" in a box at the top left.

Key musical features include:

- Flute (Fl.):** Starts with a rapid sixteenth-note scale in the first measure, marked *sf* (sforzando). It then plays a sustained note with a crescendo hairpin.
- Alto Flute (A. Fl.):** Enters in the fifth measure with a half note, marked *p* (piano), and continues with a melodic line.
- Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1):** Enters in the fourth measure with a half note, marked *f* (forte), and plays a melodic line with a crescendo hairpin.
- Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2):** Enters in the fourth measure with a half note, marked *p* (piano), and plays a melodic line with a crescendo hairpin.
- Contrabassoon (C. Bn.):** Enters in the first measure with a half note, marked *f* (forte), and plays a melodic line with a crescendo hairpin.
- B♭ Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2):** Enters in the first measure with a rapid sixteenth-note scale, marked *sf* (sforzando), and then plays a sustained note with a crescendo hairpin.
- B Clarinet (B. Cl.):** Enters in the first measure with a half note, marked *sf* (sforzando), and then plays a sustained note with a crescendo hairpin.
- Contrabass Clarinet (Cb. Cl.):** Enters in the first measure with a half note, marked *f* (forte), and plays a melodic line with a crescendo hairpin.

The score concludes with a double bar line in the final measure.

chrysalis

6

E un peu agité ♩ = 50

Fl.

A. Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

chrysalis

48

Fl.

f

A. Fl.

f

Ob.

f

E. Hn.

f

Bsn. 1

f

Bsn. 2

f

C. Bn.

f

B♭ Cl. 1

f

B♭ Cl. 2

f

B. Cl.

f

Cb. Cl.

f

F

7

chrysalis

G

8

56

Fl.

ff

subito pp

A. Fl.

56

Ob.

ff

E. Hn.

ff

Bsn. 1

ff

Bsn. 2

ff

C. Bn.

ff

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

ff

subito ppp

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

ff

B. Cl.

ff

Cb. Cl.

ff

subito pp

chrysalis

9

[illegible]

chrysalis

10 H

Fl. *pp*

A. Fl. *pp* 73

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1 *p* 3

Bsn. 2 *p*

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl. *pp* *8vb* *ad lib* 3 7

Cb. Cl.

The musical score is for a piece titled "chrysalis". It features a woodwind section with the following instruments: Flute (Fl.), Alto Flute (A. Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E. Hn.), Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2), Contrabassoon (C. Bn.), B-flat Clarinet 1 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1), B-flat Clarinet 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 2), B Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Contrabass Clarinet (Cb. Cl.). The score is written for 10 measures, with a rehearsal mark "H" at the beginning. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked "chrysalis". The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *mp* (mezzo-piano). The B Clarinet part includes a section marked "8vb" (octave below) and "ad lib" (ad libitum) with a 3-measure rest and a 7-measure rest. The Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 parts have a 3-measure rest and a 7-measure rest. The B-flat Clarinet 1 and B-flat Clarinet 2 parts have a 3-measure rest and a 7-measure rest. The Contrabass Clarinet part has a 3-measure rest and a 7-measure rest.

78

Fl.

A. Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

mf

mp

mp

mf

3

5

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a woodwind and brass ensemble. The page is titled 'chrysalis' and is page 11. It contains measures 78, 79, and 80. The instruments listed on the left are Flute (Fl.), Alto Flute (A. Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E. Hn.), Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2), Contrabassoon (C. Bn.), B-flat Clarinet 1 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1), B-flat Clarinet 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 2), B Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Contrabass Clarinet (Cb. Cl.). Measures 78 and 79 show various instruments playing, with dynamics like *mf* and *mp*. Measure 80 features a prominent five-measure rest for the Contrabassoon, marked with a *mf* dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

chrysalis

I

12

81

Fl.

A. Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

mf

to B $\flat$ Clarinet

chrysalis

13

84

Fl.

f

A. Fl.

Ob.

mf

f

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

B $\flat$ Cl.

The musical score is written for a woodwind and brass ensemble. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 84 to 91, and the second system covers measures 92 to 99. The instruments are: Flute (Fl.), Alto Flute (A. Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E. Hn.), Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2), Contrabassoon (C. Bn.), B-flat Clarinet 1 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1), B-flat Clarinet 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 2), B Clarinet (B. Cl.), and B-flat Clarinet (B $\flat$ Cl.). The Flute part has a dynamic of *f* starting in measure 92. The Oboe part has a dynamic of *mf* in measure 84 and *f* in measure 92. The Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 parts have a dynamic of *f* in measure 92. The B-flat Clarinet 1, B-flat Clarinet 2, B Clarinet, and B-flat Clarinet parts have a dynamic of *f* in measure 92. The piece ends on measure 13.

chrysalis

14

86

Fl.

A. Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

B $\flat$ Cl.

f

ff

7

3

to C Flute

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a woodwind ensemble. It consists of two measures. The first measure (measures 86-90) features a complex texture. The flute (Fl.) plays a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a breath mark and a slur. The alto flute (A. Fl.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The oboe (Ob.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The English horn (E. Hn.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The contrabassoon (C. Bn.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The B-flat clarinet 1 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1) plays a descending scale. The B-flat clarinet 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 2) plays a descending scale. The B clarinet (B. Cl.) plays a descending scale. The B-flat clarinet (B $\flat$ Cl.) plays a descending scale. The second measure (measures 91-94) features a similar texture. The flute (Fl.) plays a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a breath mark and a slur. The alto flute (A. Fl.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The oboe (Ob.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The English horn (E. Hn.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The contrabassoon (C. Bn.) plays a staccato eighth-note pattern. The B-flat clarinet 1 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1) plays a descending scale. The B-flat clarinet 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 2) plays a descending scale. The B clarinet (B. Cl.) plays a descending scale. The B-flat clarinet (B $\flat$ Cl.) plays a descending scale. The score includes various dynamics (f, ff), articulations (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (to C Flute).

chrysalis

16

91

Fl.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B $\flat$ Cl.

B $\flat$ Cl.

ff

ppp $\triangleleft$ *fff*

ppp $\triangleleft$ *fff*

ppp $\triangleleft$ *fff*

K très lent ♩ = 40

chrysalis

un peu plus rapide ♩ = 55

17

Fl.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

chrysalis

18

102

F1.

F1.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

L

chrysalis

20

114

F1.

F1.

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

ad lib

pp

pppp

pppp

 $\boxed{\mathbf{M}} \delta^{va-}$ 8^{va} -

pp

pppp

pppp

pppp

pppp

chrysalis

21

122 (8va)

Fl. *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

Fl. *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

Ob. *f*

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

B $\flat$ Cl. 2 *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

B $\flat$ Cl. *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

B $\flat$ Cl. *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

B $\flat$ Cl. *f* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

rit. trill al fine