

Minerva Manoeuvres

for String Quartet

F L Dunkin Wedd

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Minerva Manoeuvres

Patricia and I took a Swan Hellenic cruise for our 20th wedding anniversary. On board was the Bebeto String Quartet. Hearing I was a composer, their leader asked if I could write something for them to play at their final concert.

On a Swan Hellenic cruise free time is in short supply; I had no manuscript paper or pencil - certainly no computer! But somehow, Minerva Manoeuvres was finished just 48 hours later. (*It had to be quick so I could relax and enjoy myself: I wrote it mostly in the middle of the night!*)

I was interested by the contrast between the discipline of the crew and staff, and the romantic hedonism of the passengers.

I expressed the former in a march, the latter in a yearning 3/4 melody. Then I combined the duple and triple rhythms to get the accompaniment figure.

The introduction features harmonics in glissando (a flutey breathy sound) to give the feeling of a dream sequence, of time out.

The audience reaction was extremely gratifying - indeed they insisted on an immediate encore.

F L Dunkin Wedd
Tonbridge, Kent
June 1998

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Largo

 $\text{♩} = 52$

gliss

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

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Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Violin 1

Cello

come sopra

come sopra

sim

Violin 1

Violin 2 *come sopra*

Viola

Cello

Violin 1 20

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Violin 1 30

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Violin 1 40

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Violin 1

gliss

Violin 2

gliss

Viola

gliss

Cello

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Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

50° sim 3 3 3 3 3 3

Violin 1 come sopra

Violin 2 3 3 3 3 3 3

Viola 3 3 3 3 3 3

Cello come sopra

Violin 1 mp

Violin 2 3 3 mp

Viola 3 3 3 3 3 3

Cello mp 3 3 3 3

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Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin

Cello

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violoncello

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