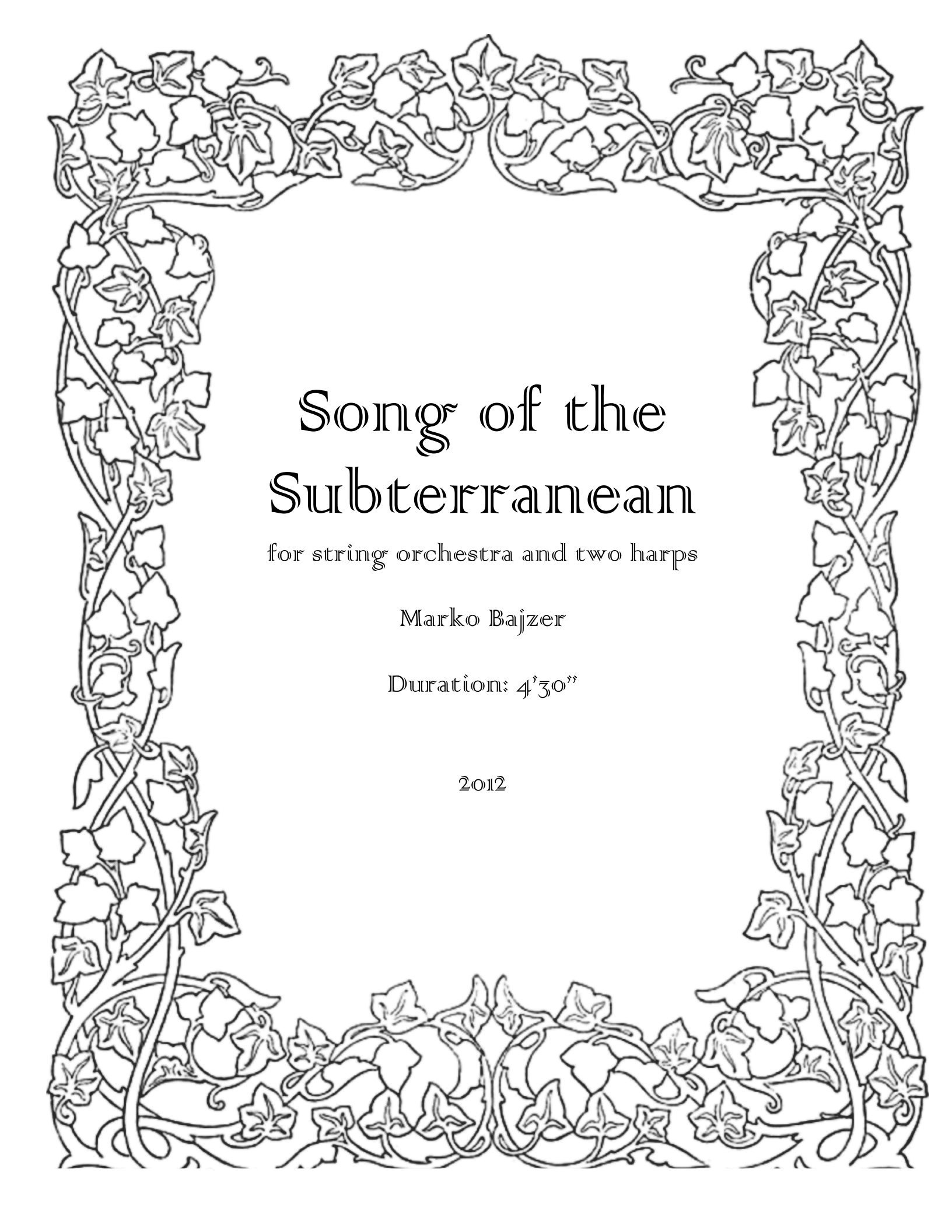




Song of the Subterranean

for string orchestra and two harps

Marko Bajzer

Duration: 4'30"

2012

Program Notes

I once heard a contrabassoon duet I had written being described as having a “subterranean quality about it,” and the word somehow caught my attention. It made me realize how little thought I give to what lie beneath me as I carry on through my business: miles and miles of various rocks, caves, streams, soils, magma, and life too. This piece represents that unsung, overlooked voice of the Earth, rising from the depths and yearning to be heard.

There is one chord progression consisting of four chords that begin the piece and are repeated with perseverance, representing the determination of this passionate yet simple song to be heard. The melodic material starts in the lowest register of the bass, and as its voice rises from the depths, the tessitura ascends until the piece finishes with the violins playing their highest harmonics.

Performance Notes

-Any instance of multiple, simultaneous notes on a staff in any of the bowed strings should be played divisi.

-Any instance of one note on a staff for any of the bowed strings should be unison.

-Any chords in the harp that have three or more notes may be slightly arpeggiated, at the conductor's/harpists' discretion.

-Accidentals last through the bar in which they appear and only in the octave in which they appear.

-The tenuto markings in the harp parts for measures 28-34 are to be interpreted as meaning that those notes should be elongated and the rest of the notes in the measure are to be slightly shorter to accommodate for the longer note(s).

-The use of picks for the harps may be used for the arpeggios from F-G if deemed appropriate.

-It also may be ideal to have the harps near the front of the orchestra, perhaps behind or in front of the conductor.

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Score

Adagio ♩ = 60

Con sord.
div. (sempre)

A Senza sord.

Violin I *pp*

Violin II *pp*

Viola *pp* Con sord.
div. (sempre)

Cello *pp* Con sord.
div. (sempre)

Contrabass *mp* *espress.*

Harp I *mp* *p*

Harp II *mp* *p*

6

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp. I

Hp. II

pizz.
unis. (sempre)

p

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a piece titled "Song of the Subterranean". The page is numbered "2" in the top left. The score is written for seven instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass, Harp I, and Harp II. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins at measure 6, indicated by a "6" above the first staff. Violin I has a melodic line starting in measure 4 with a "pizz. unis. (sempre)" instruction and a dynamic marking of *p*. Violin II is silent. The Viola and Violoncello play sustained chords with long horizontal lines above them. The Contrabass has a more active line. Harp I and Harp II provide harmonic support with chords and arpeggiated figures. The score is written in a clean, professional style with standard musical notation.

11

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp. I

Hp. II

unis. (sempre)

mp

mf

mp

mp

Detailed description: This page contains measures 11 through 14 of the musical score. The score is for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello/Double Bass) and a piano (Grand Piano I and II). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 11 begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Violin I and II play a descending eighth-note scale. Viola and Violoncello/Double Bass play a sustained chord. Measure 12 continues the string parts, with a crescendo hairpin. Measure 13 features a dynamic change to *mp* for the strings and *mf* for the piano. The piano part (Grand Piano I and II) enters with a descending eighth-note scale. Measure 14 concludes the section with a final chord and a repeat sign.

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

arco

f Senza sord.

mf

mp pizz.

mf Senza sord.

mp unis. (sempre)

sfz

mp pizz.

15

Hp. I

Hp. II

f

mp

f

mp près de la table

G $\sharp$ A $\sharp$ D $\sharp$ E $\sharp$ C $\sharp$

G $\sharp$ A $\sharp$ D $\sharp$ E $\sharp$ C $\sharp$

19

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp. I

Hp. II

p

mf

mp

p

f

mf

p

f

mp

arco

pizz.

arco

Senza sord.

G $\flat$ A $\flat$

A $\sharp$ C $\sharp$

près de la table

G $\flat$ A $\flat$ ord.

A $\sharp$ E $\flat$ D $\flat$

sub. *f*

C

Vln. I
mfp

Vln. II
mfp

Vla.
mf

Vc.
arco
molto espressivo
f

Cb.

Hp. I
23
f ord.
mf C#
G $\flat$ A $\flat$

Hp. II
23
D $\sharp$ G $\sharp$ C# *mf* E $\sharp$

26 D

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp. I

Hp. II

arco

f

f *ff*

pizz.

mf

dolce

G^b A^b

A[♯] C[♯]

A^b B[♯]