Dedicated to AG James

THIS DARK CEILING
WITHOUT A STAR

A septet in four movements on a poem by
Silvia Plath

For soprano and six instrumentalists

Christopher L James

Duration: approx 18 mins
THIS DARK CEILING
WITHOUT A STAR

INSTRUMENTATION

Msop
CL in A,
Cl in Bb
Perc; 1 mar, vibra, crutaies, susp cymb
Perc II claves, large w blocks
Tom (3) Chinese Tom
T Drum, snare drum, b drum
Unity

1st section 31 - 23 = 0.65"

2nd section 24 - 38 = 0.45"

3rd section 37 - 62 = 0.57"

Continuation 62 - 65 = 0.13"

4th section 66 - 78 = 0.33"

5th section 74 - 109 = 0.112"

6th section 110 - 119 = 0.25"

Final section = 0.75"

Total time = 422" = Approx 7 minutes
Percussion

5 PLATH SONG CYCLE

I

Marimba  Vibe  Stick  crochet  deep gong

II

Bass drum  Tenor drum  3 tom-toms  Chinese tom-tom

I. Walks  Leaves  Snare drum

No. 7  bars

$\frac{1}{2}$  85  67

TOTAL DURATION: c. 19 mins.

$\frac{1}{2}$  41

$\frac{1}{2}$  143

Approx. 112 bars copying
Copyright © Christopher Langford James
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O - pen its mouth now de man sing.

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His little face is carved in painted, red wood.

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One touch: it burns and sickens. I cannot see.

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Where apple blossoms ices the night
EVENT

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
EVENT


cannot come here.

HARIMBA

CROTALES

CLAVES

SNARE DRUM

Celesta

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Unsings

bass I - 53 Approx 3 minutes

54 - 71 Approx 1 minute

72 - 86 Approx 1 minute

Approx 5 minutes
APPREHENSIONS - SYLVIA PLATH

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
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im in it
and the stars in indifference

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
A grey hull now clawed and bloody
APPREHENSIONS - SYLVIA RATH

ff. SCREAMED

Is there any out of the mind?

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Steps at my back spiral into a well.
Ghosts or Spirits in this world, there is only a sound.

Tenor Drum
APPROXIMATIONS - SYLVIA PLATH

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On a black wall,

l.v. a wide

W.O.K.S.
APPREHENSIONS - SYLVIA PLATH

talk of nuclear radioactivity among the

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
Cold——— blank. approach. They move in a hurri

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Opening

Bars 1 - 53  3'35"

54 - 69  55"

Approx 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) minutes.
Copyright © Christopher Langford James
CHILD - S. PLATH

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
Copyright © Christopher Langford James
Copyright © Christopher Langford James
HOLTO MENO MOSCO (* = C. 60)

molto e spiccato

PP

molto e spiccato

BASS DRUM

This back calilig without a
CHILD - S. PLATH

star

This boat can't lug without a

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
By candlelight

This is night, small love.

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
By Candlelight  S. Plath

TOMS - TOMS with hands

hold you on my arm  It is very late.

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MARIMEA

simpler pp

TENOR DRUM

flue-... is in which we meet-- each other

simpler pp

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By CANDLELIGHT - S. PLATH

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BY CANDLESIGHT - S. PLATH

MARINA

Crescenso poco a poco

SOPRANO DRUM

GIANT IN THE WALL

Crescenso poco a poco

RED

Sul pont
BY CANDLELIGHT - S. PLATH

PACENTANDO Poco A Poco

TOM-TOMS with hands

One match strike makes you red.
first the candle will not blow out at all
BY CANDLERIGHT - S. PLATH

22/9/88

J hold my breath until you...
"By Candlelight" - S. Rath

Copyright © Christopher Langford James
BY CANDLELIGHT - S. FRITH

You clench your band
My singing makes you roar

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While the brass man kneels, back bent, as best he can.
That keeps the sky at bay.
SENZA MISURA

ALLEGRO

The sack of black
It is everywhere, light

Copyright © Christopher Langford-James
At his heels a pair of five brass cannon balls.
"By Candlelight" - S. Math

Child, no wife.
Five balls! Five bright brass balls!

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RALLENTANDO Poco A Poco

Copyright © Christopher Langford James

Completed 2-3/9/88