

# La Montagne Noire

*For String Quartet*

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Tom Armitage

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By Tom Armitage

Duration: 8'

*For String Quartet*

La Montagne Noire—The Black Mountain—in Southwest France: a place I hold dearly and a place that has brought me so much inner peace, through the scorching summers, bitter storms, and desolate winters in Labécède-Lauragais.

I wrote this when I was eighteen years old as a love letter to the mountains and my dear *Labécèdois*, who have shown my family more kindness than any other people on Earth.

*Written, with gratitude, for CHROMA Ensemble*

*The first performance of this piece was given on 10th May, 2011,  
at the Sir Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham.*

# La Montagne Noire

## I. Snow

Tom Armitage  
17th January 2011

Cold; not too slow (♩=78)

Violin I *senza vib.*  
*f*

Violin II *senza vib.*  
*f*

Viola *senza vib.*  
*f*

Violoncello *senza vib.* *con vib.* *senza vib.* *con vib.* *simile*  
*martelé*  
*ff*

9

Vln. I *f* *ff*

Vln. II *f* *ff*

Vla.

Vc.

17

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla.

Vc. *mf*

24

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*ff*

*con vib.*

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*senza vib.*

*gliss.*

37

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

44

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*con sord.*

*con vib. sul tasto*

*senza vib.*

*mf*

*mp*

*sul pont.*

51

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*con sord.*

*pp*

*mf*

*mf*

*con sord.*

*ppp*

58

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

3

3

3

62 *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *senza sord.* *senza sord.* *senza sord.* *senza sord.*

II. Sunrise

Warm; expressive (♩=120) (♩=70)

66 *molto vib.* *mp* *molto vib.* *mp* *molto vib.* *mp* *molto vib.* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mp*

74 *f* *pp* *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *pp*

82

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

*sub. ppp*

88

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mp*

*morendo*

*con sord.*

*tr*

*mp*

93

Vln. I

Vc.

*tr*

3

3

3

3

98

Vln. I

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

*tr*

105

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *mp* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

114

Vln. I *tr*

Vln. II *tr*

Vla. *tr*

Vc. *tr*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*martelé*

119

Vln. I *tr*

Vln. II *tr*

Vla. *tr*

Vc. *pizz.*

*2/4*



### III. Rain

125 Delicate; agitated (♩=90)

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *p*

137 pizz.

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla.

Vc.

146

Vln. I *f* *sfz* *sfz* arco

Vln. II *f* *sfz* *sfz* pizz.

Vla. *sfz* *sfz* pizz.

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* pizz.

154

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

160

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

165

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Musical score for measures 169-175. The score is for four instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 169 starts with a treble clef and a key signature change to one flat. Vln. I plays a melodic line with triplets and accents, switching to arco and sfz pizz. from measure 172. Vln. II plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, switching to sfz pizz. from measure 172. Vla. plays a bass line with triplets and sfz pizz. from measure 172. Vc. plays a bass line with sfz pizz. from measure 172. The piece concludes in measure 175 with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature change to two flats (Bb, Eb). Dynamics include sfz, pizz., arco, and con sord. (con sordano).

### IV. Tranquility

Slow; serene; tranquil (♩=66)

Musical score for measures 176-183. The score is for four instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is two flats (Bb, Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 176 starts with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. Vln. I and Vln. II play a melodic line with accents and dynamics p, switching to arco senza vib. and f con vib. molto legato from measure 178. Vla. and Vc. play a bass line with accents and dynamics p, switching to f con vib. molto legato from measure 178. The piece concludes in measure 183 with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature change to three flats (Bb, Eb, Fb).

183

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

3

191

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*f*

*p*

195

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*pp*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*pp*