

Reason is a Tree Staid

For Amplified Voice and Organ

Ethan Isaac
2023

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REASON IS A TREE STAID

what I saw walking beside me on the road to New Caanan:
figures trembling & light from thickening snowfields dashing
throughout lightfields & shadows of blackened wood

hooded in night
a silver flute extends
trees hold the sacrifice and the garment
reason is a tree staid
the easiest breath
caress me, sail on to windows

where you are held in longing
heart pulled in circumambulations
catatonic perfunction to altar

as if you would rise alive for me
as if, in the poem, would rise to my lips say
 my swinging —
 growing rigid in August wind

what tree can afford all your medallions?
what lightening strike capture you?
my vestibule slips

do you see the fern curling in?
how wholly the sleeper gives herself to wakening seed.

Reason is a Tree Staid (2023)

Music composed by Ethan Isaac (b.1996)

Text by Maggie Lousia Zavgren

Written as part of studies with vocalist Bisan Toron

Performance Note:

Reason is a Tree Staid should be treated as meditation rather than a performance. Use a free and warbly voice throughout, a lack of stability is the norm unless marked senza vib.

This work should only be performed in darkness and later in the evening when one is low in energy. The performer will be dimmly lit. If performing from memory, close one's eyes while singing, until the last line of the notated score. Then proceed to read the final lines of the poem.

Laissez vibre ties intend for the performer to hold the note until a rest appears in the respective voice. The staccatto marking also marks a very short duration in the unmeasured sections, while notes with no marking lines up with the voice.

Notation Guide:

Insert Notation Examples of Vibratio and L.V

Reason is a Tree Staid

Maggie Louisa Zavgren

Ethan Isaac

Like Sap, Flowing Down a Trunk ♩ = 42

Amplified Voice

Organ

Amplified Voice

Org.

Amplified Voice

Org.

pp senza vib.

p

vib.

s.v.

vib.

sim.

sim.....

8va

what _____

I saw walk - ing be - side me on

the road _____ to New Caa - - nan:

8 1/2 nasal ord. moltissimo vib.

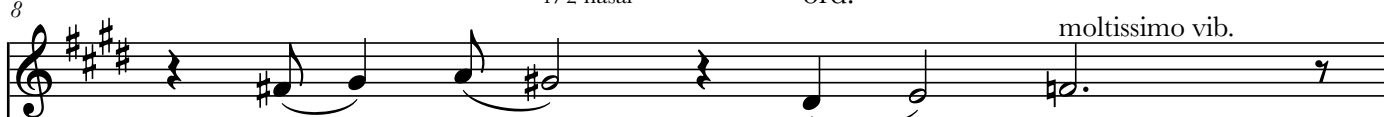
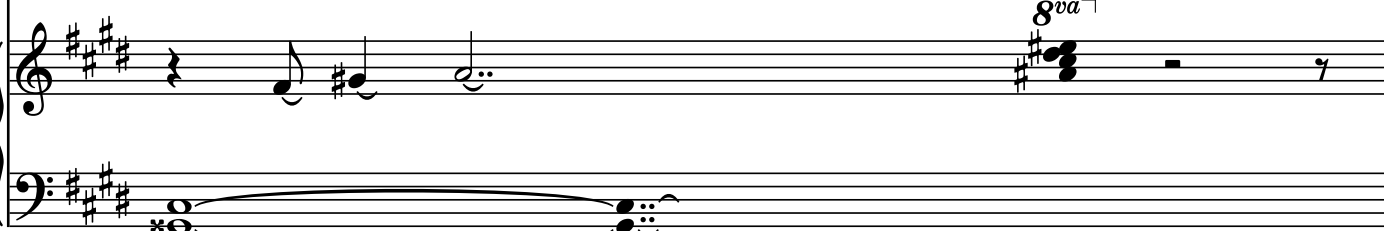
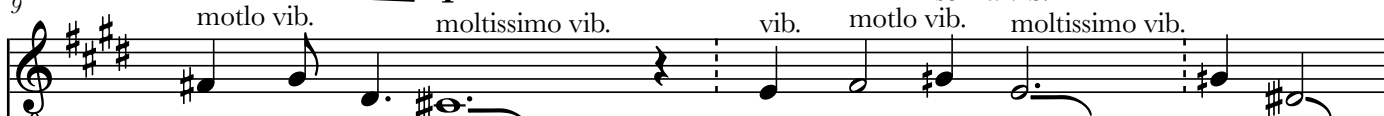
Amp V. 

fig - ures trem - bling and _____ light

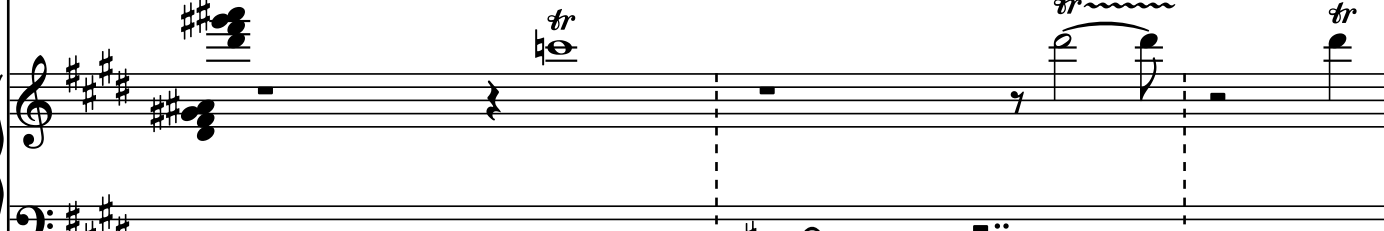
Org. 

sempre. p

9 nasal 1/2 nasal

Amp V. 

from thick - en - ing snow - fields dash - ing dash - ing

Org. 

mp *tr* *tr* *tr*

12 *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Amp V. 

dash - ing through - out light - fields and shad - ows of black - ened wood

Org. 

sempre. p

15

Amp V. *ff* *p* *ad lib.* *f*

wood [ʊ]

cont. hold l.v notes release l.v

Org. *mf* *f*

19

Amp V. *f* *> mp*

hood - ed in night a a a a sil - ver flute ex - tends

Org. *p*

22

Amp V. *mp* *pp*

trees hold the sac - ri - fice and the gar - ment

Org. *8va* *mf* *mp*

3

Slightly Faster
mp *p* ad lib.

24

Amp V.

8

trees hold the sac - ri - fice and the gar - ment

Org.

mp

ad lib. cont.

25

Amp V.

8

rea - son is a tree staid rea - son is a tree sta - a -

Org.

[25]

Amp V.

8

- a - a - a - aid a - a - a - a - a - a - aid

Org.

[illegible]

27 *mp* *f* *f* cover moltissimo vib.

Amp V.

sail on to win - dows where you are held in long - ing where you are held

Org.

[27] *ord.* *ff* *f* *pp*

Amp V. *8* where you are held in long - - - ing heart_____ pulled_____

Org. *ppp*

Slightly Faster*p*

29

Amp V.

Org.

in cir - cum - ma - bu - lat - ions heart _____ pulled in cir - cum - ma -

32

Amp V.

Org.

- bu - lat - ions cat - a - ton - ic per - funct - ion to alt - ar

mp

pp

pp

35

Amp V.

Org.

cat - a - ton - ic per - funct - ion

f

ff

sempre pp

sempre pp

38 *fff* *mf sub.* *rit. p*

Amp V. *8* to alt - ar to alt - ar as if

Org. *3*

41 *f sub.* *p sub.*

Amp V. *8* as if as if

Org.

43 *fff sub.* *ff*

Amp V. *8* as if — you'd rise a - live for me as if, — in the poem,

Org. *f* *f*

44

Amp V. *f* *mp* *p*

would rise — to my lips say my swing - ing grow - ing rig - id

Org.

45

Amp V. *pp* *ff*

in au - gust wind — What tree can af - ford — all

Org. *f*

47

Amp V. *ff* *fff*

your med - all - ions what light - nig strike capt - ure you —

Org. *f*

49

Amp V. *f* *f* *ff* *

8 my vest - i - bule slips

Org. *sempre. f* *sempre. f* *sempre. f*

*Read aloud in a wispy voice

do you see the fern curling in?
how wholly the sleeper gives herself to wakening seed.