

String Quartet No. 1 - "Astral" (2008)

20 minutes
by David Dzubay

I Voyage

[5:22]

A "flight" Pitch centers: G, A, C#/D# G
Dynamic: *f*
Tempo: ♩=192

B "asteroids"

C "worm hole" "worm hole" "asteroids" "capsule interior"

B "asteroids"

A "hyper space"

II Starry Night

[3:30]

A a (minor) Dynamic: *p*
Tempo: ♩=60

B d#

C [B^b/E]

A/B c f#

A e a

III S.E.T.I.

[2:00]

Focus 1 View 1: dry, crackly Focus 2 View 2: fluid, skitterish Focus 3 View 3: wild Focus 4
Dynamic: *mf*
Tempo: (busy, pulseless)

IV Wintu Dream Song

[4:20]

Introduction; song; interlude; song
key: G song form: a b a b a c d
Dynamic: *pp*
Tempo: ♩=66

*It is above that you and I shall go;
Along the Milky Way you and I shall go;
Along the flower trail you and I shall go;
Picking flowers on our way you and I shall go.*

V Supernova

[3:00]

A (bound energy) new theme and growing sus. sounds expansion: single tone → 1/4 tone cluster → 1/2 tone cluster (0123) → (0235)
Pitch center: E
Dynamic: *ff*
Tempo: ♩=108

B (explosion) mvt. I dev: asteroids, pyramid, kaleidoscope

C (dissipation) triplet exchange chord prog. (I.142-151, up M2)

Notes:

- spiral of movement durations. one long and one short each of slow and fast mvts., plus central mvt.
- G/A focal pitch alternation in mvt. 1 and between mvts. 1, 2, 4.
- overall tonal centers (G, A, E) are a motivic parallelism of central motive (x).
- "S.E.T.I." = Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence, an organization scanning radio frequencies for signs of life.

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