

Thalassa

for flexible ensemble

Natalie Bleicher
2013

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Programme note

Thalassa is the second innermost moon of Neptune, and the seventh largest. It orbits Neptune every seven and a half hours. It is irregularly shaped and roughly 80km in diameter. It was discovered in September 1989 from images taken by the Voyager 2 probe. Thalassa is also the Greek word for sea.

This piece is in the form of a passacaglia with a short coda. It was first written for string quintet for a workshop at the CoMA Midwinter Composers' course in January 2013. It has been arranged for open score ensemble.

Instruments and available parts

A – high instruments (in C, treble clef)

B – high instruments (in C and Bb, treble clef)

C – medium instruments (In C - treble clef, C – alto clef, Bb and Eb)

D – low instruments (in C, bass clef)

E – low and very low instruments (In C, non-octave transposing and in C – transposing for instruments which play an octave lower than written)

Percussion (1 player): glockenspiel and one item of wooden percussion e.g. wood block or found object

Piano

Performance instructions

- Wind instruments should ignore all 'pizz', 'arco' and bowing instructions.
- All tremolo is for strings only; wind players should play these as normal notes.
- All players should omit any notes outside their range.

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