

# I Am A Vessel

Text by  
Joyelle McSweeney

written for the Holy Cross College Choir and Cristina Pato  
in collaboration through Arts Transcending Borders and support of The Mellon Foundation

David Harris

*bagpipe ad lib, notes are suggestions*

Bagpipe in C

*continue with improvisation 30 seconds-1 minute  
(closed, focused, stopped, swollen, charged)*

B.P.

16 *Group 1 SATB* *choir split into 9 groups*

S 1  
I am a ve - ssel, still in - tact still in - tact nn

S 2  
*Group 2 SATB*  
I am a ve - ssel, still in - tact still in - tact

S 3  
tact still in -

23

S 1  
nn

S 2  
tact nn

S 3  
tact still in - tact nn

S 4  
tact still in - tact nn

S 5  
tact still in - tact nn

A  
tact still in - tact nn

T 1  
tact still in - tact nn

T 2  
tact still in - tact nn

B  
tact still in - tact nn

I Am A Vessel

B.P. *tr*

S 1

T 1

continue with improvisation build to a frenzied intensity within the 6/8 gig-like format: 30 seconds-1 minute (hurried, determined, challenged, pressed, unsettled)

B.P.

S 1

T 1

45 *mf* *cresc.*

S 1  
still in-tact still in-tact still in-tact so long as I am a vault and wear my door slung

A  
still in-tact still in-tact still in-tact so long as I am a vault and wear my door slung

T 1  
still in-tact still in-tact still in-tact so long as I am a vault and wear my door slung

B  
still in-tact still in-tact still in-tact so long as I am a vault and wear my door slung

50

S 1  
shut like an i-ron lung and bolt-ed hea-vi-ly there fore:

A  
shut like an i-ron lung and bolt-ed hea-vi-ly there

T 1  
shut like an i-ron lung and bolt-ed hea-vi-ly there

B  
shut like and i-ron lung and bolt-ed hea-vi-ly

*solo*

# I Am A Vessel

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S 1 bolt - ed hea-vi-ly

S 2 bolt - ed hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly

A ed hea-vi-ly

T 1 fore

T 2 *solo* I seal my -

B there, fore

56

S 1

S 2 hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly

S 4 *solo* and close

A

T 1

T 2 self in - to my slick ich - or

B

I Am A Vessel

4  
59

S 1

S 2  
hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly

S 4  
my frog - gy lips up - on my crown

S 5  
*solo*  
that

A

T 1

T 2

B

62

S 1

S 2  
hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly hea-vi-ly

S 4

S 5  
no light might lips out as I dive down

A

T 1

T 2

B

*bagpipe enter, free improvisation  
(freedom, illusion, disconnected,  
floating, satisfied, expressive)*  
**ff**

65

B.P.

S 1

S 2

hea - vi - ly hea - vi - ly hea - vi - ly hea - vi - ly

S 3

S 4

*Individuals sing in canon, improvising rhythm*

and close

S 5

*Individuals sing in canon, improvising rhythm*

that

A

T 1

*Individuals sing in canon, improvising rhythm*

T 2

I seal my -

B

The choir is in 9 groups. Each fermata group has a leader who uses solfege hand symbols to select one of the given pitches. The group sings and holds that pitch at the instruction of the conductor, using the words as given in order.

Choir into original 2 groups, bagpipe out on downbeat

67

B.P.

S 1

S 2

S 3

S 4

S 5

A

T 1

T 2

B

I am a

mp I am a ve - ssel,

I am a ve - ssel,

my frog - gy lips up - on my crown

no light might lisp out as I dive down

I am a

I am a

self in - to my slick ich - or

I am a

Group 1 SATB

Group 2 SATB