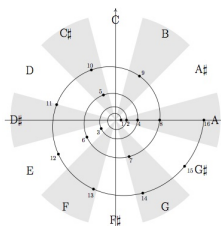

Meditations on a Warming Planet

for solo piano

Clifton Callender

2023



H o q u e t u s M u s i c

Meditations on a Warming Planet

Clifton Callender

I.	Parched Earth	3:15
II.	Atmospheric River	2:30
III.	Habitat	3:15
IV.	In Memoriam	4:30
Total		13:30

"The way out of climate change is inside each of us." — Thich Nhat Hanh

Meditations on a Warming Planet began as a part of Ann Duhamel's "Prayers for a Feverish Planet" project, which features a collection of works for solo piano that respond in some manner to climate change. Inspired by the ambitiousness of the project and Ann's moving performances, I decided to add three more movements to form the current set of four, each focusing on a different aspect of the crisis.

From a human perspective, the warming of the planet is very gradual, yet relentless, a steady progression (accumulation) toward a more chaotic and less hospitable world. "Parched Earth" depicts the process of desertification, where fertile regions are gradually replaced by arid, unfertile areas. While the process can be natural, the spread of arid regions is increasingly caused (and exacerbated) by human activities.

"Atmospheric rivers are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere—like rivers in the sky—that transport most of the water vapor outside of the tropics" (noaa.gov). While these are naturally occurring phenomena, their size and the resulting release of moisture as precipitation and potential for flooding are increasing due to climate change. "Atmospheric River" attempts to capture the general phenomena of more frequent and more destructive flooding that is a direct result of a warmer planet.

"Habitat" depicts the progressive loss of species and wildlife, again exacerbated by climate change, in a rather direct manner with a gradual reduction of musical activity leading to a single, isolated, and extremely thin note. Over the course of the movement, a harmonic progression, presented in lush arpeggios at first, is progressively reduced until only its memory persists.

Over the decade beginning in 2012 over 1,700 environmental activists and land defenders have been murdered doing their work. "In Memoriam" is dedicated to the memory of these courageous individuals, focusing on their beautiful, impactful, and inspiring lives. An optional slide show featuring specific individuals is available for performance.

— Clifton Callender

Meditations on a Warming Planet

Clifton Callender

I. Parched Earth

♩ = 66
rubato

Piano

pp
ℒed. sempre al fine

Pno

pp
(ℒed.)

cresc. poco a poco
(pp)

Pno

(ℒed.)

Pno

mp
(ℒed.)

cresc. poco a poco
(p)

Pno

(Ped.)

Pno

(Ped.)

Pno

(Ped.)

Pno

(Ped.)

Parched Earth

molto rit...... **a tempo** **rit.**.....

Pno

pp

dim.

al ppp

(*Leo.*)

(*Leo.*)

(*Leo.*)

II. Atmospheric River

$\text{♩} = 138$

Piano

pp cresc.

*Red.**

Pno

(Red.)

Pno

(Red.)

al p

mp

p

Pno

mf

mp

f

p

mp

Red.

p

The musical score is divided into four systems, each featuring a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for a piano. The first system is labeled 'Piano' and begins with a *pp cresc.* dynamic marking. The second system is labeled 'Pno' and includes a *(Red.)* marking. The third system is also labeled 'Pno' and includes a *(Red.)* marking, with dynamics *al p*, *mp*, and *p* indicated. The fourth system is labeled 'Pno' and includes a *(Red.)* marking, with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, *f*, *p*, and *mp* indicated. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 138$. The piece is titled 'II. Atmospheric River'.

* Use $\frac{1}{2}$ pedal as necessary throughout.

Pno

First system of piano music. The right hand (treble clef) features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mp*. The left hand (bass clef) provides a harmonic accompaniment with slurs and accents, marked *p*. The system begins with a *(Lento.)* marking.

Pno

Second system of piano music. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mp*. The left hand continues the accompaniment with slurs and accents, marked *p*. The system begins with a *(Lento.)* marking.

Pno

Third system of piano music. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mp*. The left hand continues the accompaniment with slurs and accents, marked *p*. The system begins with a *(Lento.)* marking.

Pno

Fourth system of piano music. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mp*. The left hand continues the accompaniment with slurs and accents, marked *p*. The system begins with a *(Lento.)* marking.

Pno

Fifth system of piano music. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mp*. The left hand continues the accompaniment with slurs and accents, marked *p*. The system begins with a *(Lento.)* marking. Above the system, the tempo marking *a tempo* is indicated.

Pno

mp *mp p* *mp* *pp cresc.*

p *p*

(Red.) Red.

Pno

(Red.) Red.

Pno

(Red.) Red.

Pno

(Red.) Red.

Pno

al f

(Red.) Red.

Atmospheric River

Pno

cresc.
(Ped.)

Pno

(Ped.)

Pno

(Ped.)

Pno

8
(Ped.)

Pno

8^{va}

Ped.

Pno

(8)

al ff *p sub. cresc.*

Ped.

Pno

(8)

Ped.

Pno

(8)

Ped.

Atmospheric River

Piano score for "Atmospheric River". The score consists of five systems, each labeled "Pno" on the left. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, featuring various musical symbols including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

The first system includes the marking *(Ped.)* below the bass staff.

The second system includes the marking *(Ped.)* below the bass staff.

The third system includes the marking *(Ped.)* below the bass staff.

The fourth system includes the marking *(Ped.)* below the bass staff.

The fifth system includes the marking *(Ped.)* below the bass staff. It also features dynamic markings *al ff* and *fff* above the treble staff, and *p* below the bass staff, with the instruction *both hands* written below the bass staff.

ff *r.h. only*

Pno

ff *8ba* *p* *l.h. only*

p *ff* *p*

Pno

8ba

ff *p* *ff*

ff *p*

Pno

p *ff*

Pno

p *ff*

(8va.)

(8ba.)

(8va.)

(8ba.)

(8va.)

(8ba.)

(8va.)

(8ba.)

Piano score for "Atmospheric River". The score is written for Piano (Pno) and consists of five systems of music. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4.

System 1: The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, starting with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic and a *p* (piano) dynamic. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody of eighth notes, starting with a *ff* dynamic. The system concludes with a *ff* dynamic.

System 2: The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment, with a *ff* dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, starting with a *ff* dynamic and ending with a *p* (piano) dynamic.

System 3: The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment, with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, starting with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic and ending with a *p* (piano) dynamic.

System 4: The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment, with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, starting with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic and ending with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The system concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic.

System 5: The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment, with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, starting with a *p* (piano) dynamic and ending with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The system concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic.

Pno

(Led.)

Pno

(Led.)

rit.....

Pno

(Led.)

Pno

(Led.)

attacca

III. Habitat

Piano

$\text{♩} = 76$ accel..... rit.....

15

f

Red.

Pno

accel..... poco rit. $\text{♩} = 90$ accel..... rit.....

13 12 15

mf *f*

Red.

Pno

accel..... rit..... accel..... rit..... accel..... rit.....

(*Red.*) *mf* *f* *mf*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

Pno

accel..... rit..... accel..... rit.....

f *f* *mf*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

Musical score for "Piano" by Maurice Strakosky. The score is for a piano (Pno) and features a complex rhythmic structure with multiple time signatures: 3/8, 7/8, 5/16, 3/4, and 2/4. The tempo markings are "accel....." and "rit.....". The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

Pno

First system of piano music. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of two staves. The left hand plays a series of chords, with the first two marked with a 5:3 ratio and a (20.) marking. The right hand plays a series of chords, with the first two marked with a 5:3 ratio and a (20.) marking. The music is marked *fff* (fortissimo).

fff

(20.)

Pno

Second system of piano music. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of two staves. The left hand plays a series of chords, with the first two marked with a 5:3 ratio and a (20.) marking. The right hand plays a series of chords, with the first two marked with a 5:3 ratio and a (20.) marking. The music is marked *cresc. poco a poco* (crescendo poco a poco).

cresc. poco a poco

(20.)

Pno

Third system of piano music. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of two staves. The left hand plays a series of chords, with the first two marked with a 5:3 ratio and a (20.) marking. The right hand plays a series of chords, with the first two marked with a 5:3 ratio and a (20.) marking. The music is marked *al ffff* (all fortissimo).

al ffff

(20.)

IV. In Memoriam

♩ = 60

Graceful and restrained, poco rubato

Piano

p

con pedale *

Pno

Pno

rit.

a tempo

Pno

rit.

a tempo

Pno

pp

p

rit.

a tempo

* Pedal as indicated, but feel free to add pedal elsewhere as appropriate.

Pno

rit.....

Led. Led.

Pno

a tempo

pp *p* *pp*

Led.

Pno

p

Led. Led. Led. Led.

Pno

rit.....

mf

Led. Led. Led. Led. Led.

a tempo

Pno

p

ff

Red.

rit......

Pno

ff

p

ff

Sost.

Red.

Pno

ff

pp

p

ff

Red.

(Sost.)

Pno

ff

p

ff

Red.

(Sost.)

In Memoriam

poco accel...... *rit.*.....

a tempo

Pno

pp *mp* *p*

rit......

a tempo *a tempo*

Pno

8va *8va*

rit......

Pno

mf *p* *pp*

8va *8va*

ritardando.....

$\text{♩} = 56$

Piano score for "In Memoriam". The score is written for Piano (Pno) and consists of two systems. The first system contains four measures, and the second system contains two measures. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score features complex harmonic textures with many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in threes or fours. The notation includes various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and dynamic markings. The first system is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. The second system is divided into two measures. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

