

The Wisdom of the Rock *from Cardinal Elements*

Kenley Kristofferson
Arranged by David Marlatt

Wisdom of the Rock as a standalone piece is meant as a scaffold to programming the *Cardinal Elements* suite. *Wisdom of the Rock* (which is movement III from the suite) begins a troubled and haunted musical story. When I was researching this piece and talking to Treaty One Indigenous folks about their tradition of the elements, I expected them to talk about the “strength” of earth and rock; to my surprise, they said something quite different. They spoke of the *wisdom* of the rock and that it had been present for ages, seeing the First Peoples on the land, then the coming of the settlers, and the difficult relationship we’ve been navigating for the last few centuries. We are connected to the earth and need its wisdom, perhaps now more than ever. Measure 21 reveals a more hopeful side of the music – perhaps by listening to the rock and forming a stronger connection with the earth, we may forge a better relationship with one another.

K.K.

Kenley Kristofferson is a composer for concert band, concert choir, symphony orchestra and video games. Growing up as a euphonium player in Gimli, Manitoba, he later went on to complete his B. Mus and B. Ed degrees from the University of Manitoba and became one of the music teachers at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School in Selkirk, MB. In 2019, he completed his Master of Music in Composition from Brandon University, studying under Dr. T. Patrick Carrabré.

His work *The Meeting Place* won the 2016 Canadian Band Association Composition Competition (now the Howard Cable Memorial Prize in Composition). His music has been performed at the Midwest Band Convention in Chicago and the Manitoba Music Educators' Association Conference (TEMPO), among others. It has been recorded by the Arizona State University Wind Orchestra, Barrett Choir, and Choral Union, the University of Northern Colorado Wind Ensemble, the Cleveland Winds, the University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble, and the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble.

He has written commercial work for video game franchises such as Betty Boop, Disney’s DuckTales, KRE-O and Warhammer 40,000. The score for his short film on the early life of astronomer Carl Sagan, *Star Stuff*, was nominated for Best Original Score in the “Short” category in the 2016 International Sound and Film Music Festival in Croatia.

THE WISDOM OF THE ROCK

from *CARDINAL ELEMENTS*

Kenley Kristofferson

with Ray Stevenson

Arranged by David Marlatt

Pensively ♩ = 68

2

3

4

5

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

B♭ Trumpet 3

B♭ Flugelhorn

F Horn 1

F Horn 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani
G-B♭-C-D

Chimes
Bells

alone
p

pp

6

7

8

9

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Musical score for various instruments including Tpt 1, Tpt 2, Tpt 3, Flug, Hn 1, Hn 2, Trbn 1, Trbn 2, Trbn 3, Bari, Tuba, Timp, Chimes Bells, and B.D. The score is presented in a preview format with a large 'Preview' watermark across the center. The notation includes rests for most instruments in measures 6-8, and notes with dynamics like *p* in measures 8-9.