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## The perpetual hell of your own undoing.

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## THE PERPETUAL HELL OF YOUR OWN UNDOING

# A Musical Dramatic Work by Emery Miles Tackett

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the

School of Music of the University of Louisville

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

Master of Music in Music Composition

School of Music
University of Louisville,
Louisville, Kentucky

December 2023

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## THE PERPETUAL HELL OF YOUR OWN UNDOING FOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

By

Emery Miles Tackett B.M., Ball State University, 2020 M.M., University of Louisville, 2023

A Thesis Approved on

11/30/2023

by the following Thesis Committee:
Thesis Chair – Allison Ogden
Krzystztof Wolek
Kirsten Carithers

## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, who have helped me through thick and thin.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First and foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Allison Ogden for being an incredible support during the creation of this thesis. Her tireless work has been indispensable from day one of this project, and without her this would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank Dr. Krzysztof Wolek and Dr. Kirsten Carithers for being a part of my thesis committee. Their help has been instrumental in the completion of this project.

I would like to thank my parents Betsy Vick and Charles Tackett, as well as my grandmother M. Anne Vick for their support of my musical journey. From a young age they have supported my musical endeavors, and for this I cannot thank them enough.

Finally, I would like to thank my high school band director Mr. Aaron Alexander, whose encouragement enabled me to pursue my dream of becoming a composer.

#### PROGRAM NOTE

#### THE PERPETUAL HELL OF YOUR OWN UNDOING

#### FOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

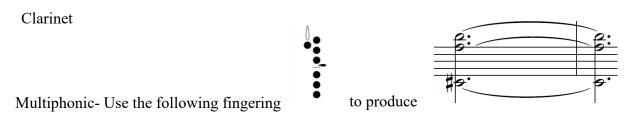
Emery Miles Tackett

November  $30^{th}$ , 2023

The Perpetual Hell of Your Own Undoing is a musical dramatic work for a chamber ensemble and two voices. In it, two souls trapped in the afterlife must struggle to regain their memories through dreams in order to figure out where they are and why they've been brought there. Over time, as their memories are regained, they learn that they were in fact lovers. However, by the end the realization that one of the pair killed the other threatens to tear the two apart.

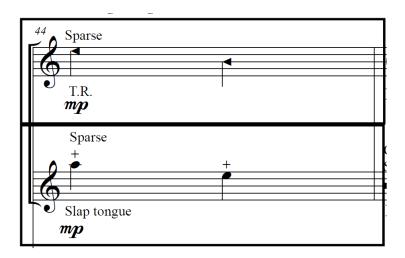
This musical dramatic work deals with themes of death, memory, and forgiveness. It utilizes both classical and Avant Garde musical ideas to convey the drama. As the characters' moods change and the context is revealed, the music itself changes as well to match.

## PERFORMERS' NOTES



Flute and Clarinet

Boxes- Play whatever is in the box for the duration listed



## INSTRUMENTATION

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

Percussion

Piano

Soprano Voice

Baritone Voice

Violin

Cello

Contrabass

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# Act I Entrance Music

**Emery Miles** 









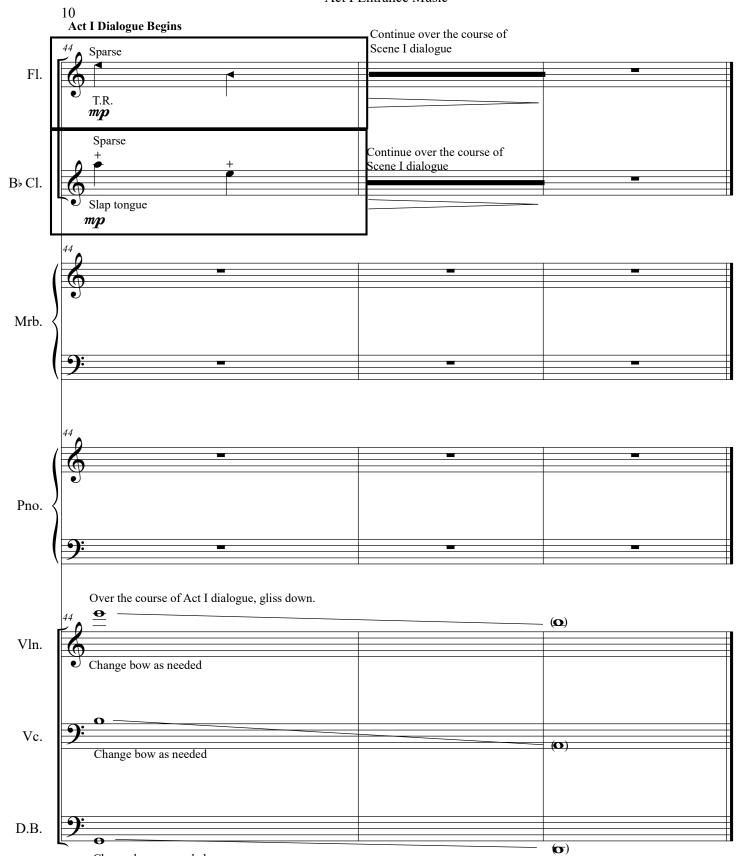












Change bow as needed

	Scene 1
In the liminal space between life and death.	
JOHN descends a long staircase.	
	JOHN
Where the hell am I? How did I get here?	
	JANE
I wish I could tell you	
	JOHN
And why can't you?	
	JANE
Because I don't know myself.	
	JOHN
Haven't you tried to figure it out?	
	JANE
I just arrived here, same as you.	

## Discoveries in the Dark





Vc.

D.B.



















































	Scene 2
	JANE
I had the most wonderful dream last night.	
	JOHN
What was it?	
	JANE
Let me tell you!	





















































	Scene 3
	JOHN
I had a dream last night.	
	JANE
What was it about?	
	JOHN
It was about my father.	
	JANE
More specifically	
	JOHN

The way he raised me growing up, and what he taught me.

## My Father's Son































































S	Scene 4	
	JANE	
I had the most amazing dream last night!		
	JOHN	
Me too!		
	JANE	
And the craziest part: You were in it.		
	JOHN	
You were in my dream as well.		
	JANE	
You know what this means. We must have known each other during our lives.		
	JOHN	
I wonder what the connection between us was.		

## It Could Have Been Love



















































	Scene 5
	JANE
My dream last night was horrifying.	
	JOHN
What happened?	
	JANE
Stay away from me, you monster.	
	JOHN
Just tell me what happened.	

## The Final Song











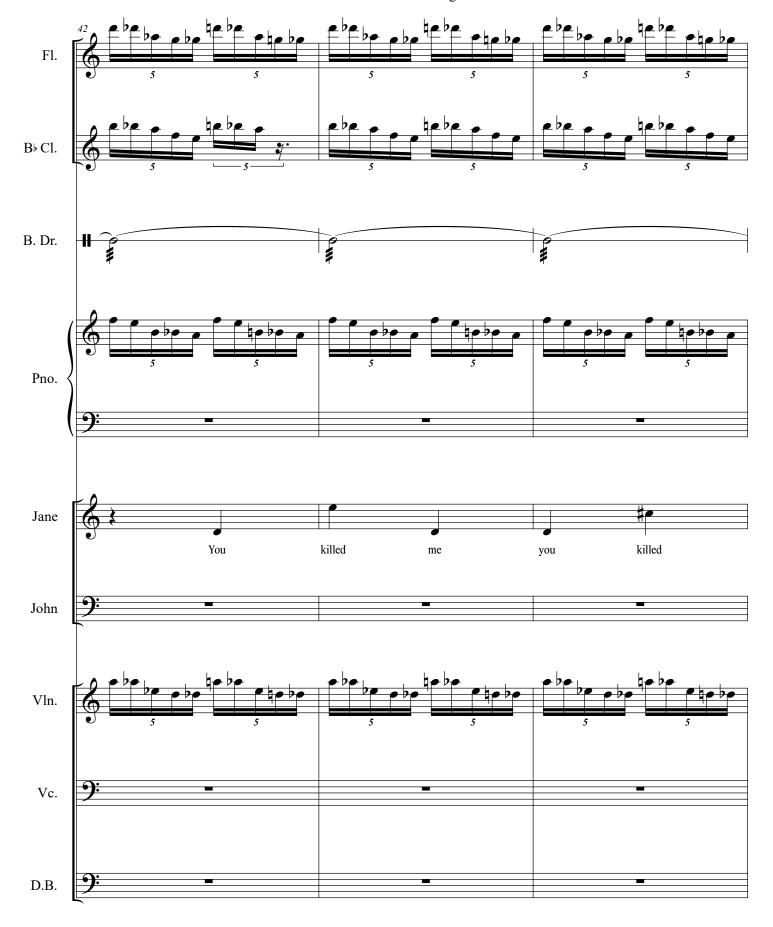


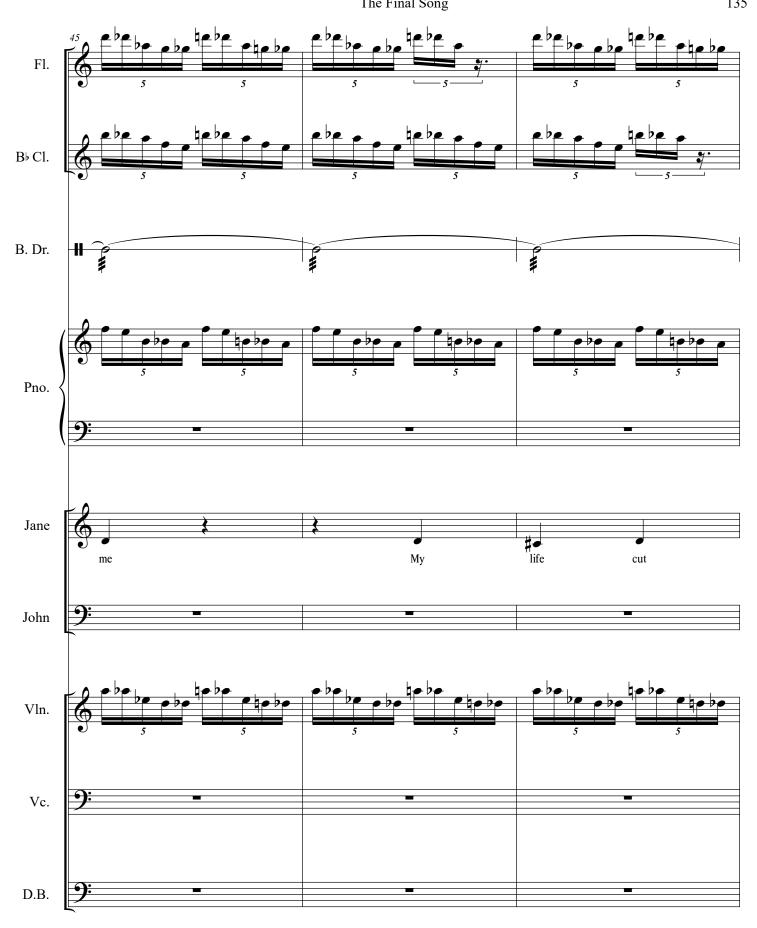


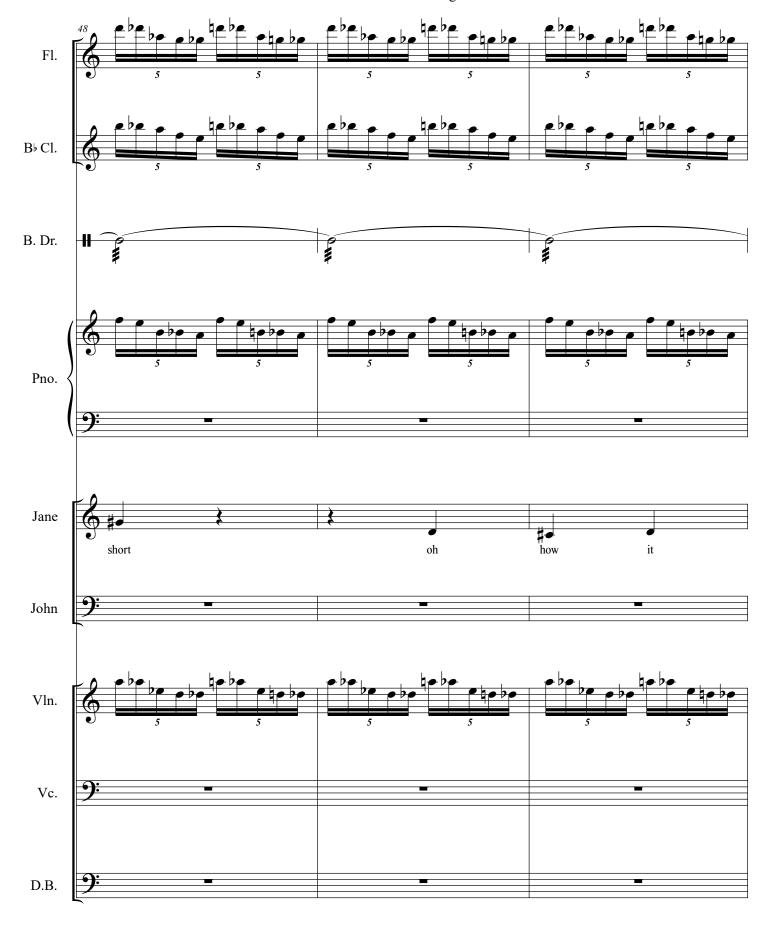




























The Final Song 145



















































## Scene 5

### **JOHN**

Should I stay and let myself dissolve? Or should I go and live a new life? Do I deserve to live again?

At this point the actor playing JOHN makes a decision about whether to stay or go. If they stay, they should sit and think pensively. If they go, they should exit through the door onstage.

### **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **Emery Miles Tackett**

### **Education:**

2021-2023 Master's in Music Composition; University of Louisville, Louisville

KY (in progress, expected graduation Fall 2023)

2017-2021 Bachelor's in Music Composition, Cum Laude; Ball State

University,

Muncie, IN

2013-2017 Academic Honors Degree; Clarksville High School, Clarksville, IN

## **Public Performances/Workshops/Commissions:**

11/11/22	4evermore for String Trio performed by Amorsima Trio	
10/30/21	we are bound by rules we cannot see for Tenor Saxophone and	
	Guitar. Performed by Erin Rogers and Jay Sorce of Hypercube as	
	part of the CubeLab workshop	
08/26/21	Co-taught a high school level composition course at the Youth	
	Performing Arts School in Louisville, KY. This was a 10 week	
	course which took place during the Fall semester of 2021 and the	
	Spring semester of 2022. This course was co-taught with composer	
	Isaac Smith and supervised by Dr. Matilda Ertz	
11/12/2020	Waves of Silver Waves, fixed media. Performed on EM Two with	
	live 8-channel diffusion	

11/04/2020	Behind a Lonely Cloud for small ensemble. Performed on the New	
	Music Ensemble spring concert	
11/19/2019	Kingslayer for String Quintet. Sightread by critically acclaimed	
	string quintet Sybarite5	
09/08/2019	$Approaching\ Nothing, fixed\ media.\ Performed\ on\ EM One,\ Ball$	
	State's electronic music concert series	
04/22/2019	My Eyes Moved to the Branches Outside the Window for small	
	ensemble. Performed on the Ball State New Music Ensemble	
	Spring Concert	
08/27/2018	Received a commission to produce music for Undertaking: the	
	Podcast. This was an ongoing project from 08/27/18 - 04/23/22	
11/15/2017	So Long to Solitude for Piano and Alto Sax. Ball State Student	
	Composers Forum	

## **Group/Ensemble Involvement:**

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	University of Louisville Technology Ensemble
Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	University of Louisville New Music Ensemble
Fall 2020 - Spring 2021	Ball State Electroacoustic Ensemble member
Fall 2020 - Spring 2021	Student Advisory Committee member
Fall 2019 - Spring 2021	Ball State SCI Student Chapter President
Fall 2019 - Spring 2020	Ball State Chamber Choir member
Fall 2018 - Spring 2021	Ball State New Music Ensemble member
Fall 2017 - Spring 2019	Ball State Concert Choir member

<b>Empl</b>	loym	ent:
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Fall 2020 - Spring 2021 Music Theory and History Tutor, Ball State Learning

Center

Summer 2017, 2018 Busser, Derby Dinner Playhouse

## **Private study:**

Amelia Kaplan

Daniel Swilley

**Eleanor Trawick** 

Chin Ting Chan

Marc Satterwhite

Allison Ogden

## **Additional Studies:**

Chris Arrell

Pang Chun-ting

**Erin Rogers** 

Katherine Balch

## **New Music Performance Experience:**

With the Ball State New Music Ensemble:

Jackson Roush, On Right Bird Left (premiere) (alto sax)

11/25/2019 Missy Mazoli, Set That on Fire (piano)

04/22/2019 Emery Miles, My Eyes Moved to the Branches

*Outside the Window (premiere)* (alto sax)

03/14/2019 Erin Rogers, *Gorilla* (tenor sax)

12/06/2018 Andrew Norman, Frank's House (piano)

Solo:

10/16/2020 Free Improv, Ball State General Recital Hour (piano)

### **Additional Skills:**

Soundpainting

Max/MSP

Ableton Live

Free improvisation

**Academic Writing** 

Instrumental performance:

Piano, saxophone, voice, synthesizer, electronics

#### **Works List:**

The Perpetual Hell of Your Own Undoing (2023), for Flute, Clarinet, Percussion, Piano,

Soprano, Baritone, Violin, Cello, Double Bass

4evermore (2022), for String Trio

Gained in Translation (2022), for flexible ensemble

we are bound by rules we cannot see (2021), for Tenor Saxophone and Guitar

Shuttering Flimmers (2021) for Alto Sax

Waves of Silver Waves (2020), stereo fixed media

Behind a Lonely Cloud (2020), for Oboe, Piano, Violin, Double Bass

Shortness of Breath (2020), for Trumpet

Kingslayer (2019), for String Quintet

Ideation 1 (2019), for Piano

Approaching Nothing (2019), stereo fixed media

My Eyes Moved to the Branches Outside my Window (2019) for Clarinet, Alto Sax,

Violin, Viola, and Piano

Sandburg Songs (2018-2019) for Soprano Voice and Piano

Human Sound Machine (2017) for Voice and Body Percussion

Three Short Inventions (2017) for Piano

Five Miniatures (2017) for Piano

Wind in the Grass (2017) for Alto Sax

Stranger at the Door (2017) for Piano

Rhythmica (2017) for Piano

So Long to Solitude (2016) for Alto Sax and Piano