

Peter Knell

Vowel Owl
(Roger)

Duration: ca. 4 minutes

Commissioned by Los Angeles Children's Chorus

Vowel Owl (Roger)

Peter Knell (b. 1970)
text by John Hollander

Quite still, haunting (♩ = 48, ♩ = 96)

Treble

Quite still, haunting (♩ = 48, ♩ = 96)

Piano

sempre pp

with pedal

7

Oo - ih,

5

6

3

13

oo - ooo. Oo - ih, oo -

13

3

3

20

ooo.

20

Vowel Owl (Roger)

27

Some-thing is miss-ing from the sound out-side the win-dow, in the frost. in the frost.

33

Oo - ih,

p *pp*

40

oo - ooo. Oo - ih, oo - ooo.

oo - ooo. Oo - ih, oo - ooo.

40

47

All the "Oo's" are ve-ry round,

All the "Oo's" are ve-ry round,

54

but some-how all the "Ti's" got lost.

but some-how all the "Ti's" "Ti's" got lost.

Slightly faster (♩ = 60, ♪ = 120)

61

Poor Ro-ger knows how po-ets wrote that

Poor Ro-ger knows how po-ets wrote that

Slightly faster (♩ = 60, ♪ = 120)

Vowel Owl (Roger)

67

owls are al - ways sing - ing out: "Too - whit, too - whoo, a mer - ry note"

owls are al - ways sing - ing out: "Too - whit, too - whoo, a mer - ry note"

mp *p*

72

rit. *a tempo*

He does his best, be - yond a doubt.

He does his best, be - yond a doubt.

pp *p* *pp*

77

cresc.

(Ro - ger is real - ly good as gold. good as

(Ro - ger is good as good as gold

cresc.

81

gold. good as gold.)

good as good as gold.)

81

f

85

rit. *p*

good as gold.)

p

good as gold.)

rit. *Tempo I*

p *pp*

85

rit. *p*

good as gold.)

p

good as gold.)

rit. *Tempo I*

p *pp*

92

But un - like o - ther owls, He on - ly howls in

But un - like o - ther owls, He on - ly howls in

92

Vowel Owl (Roger)

98

vo - wels. Per - haps he has a

vo - wels. Per - haps he has a

104

cold. Per - haps

cold. Per - haps

pp

111

he has a cold.

he has a cold.

Vowel Owl (Roger)

by John Hollander

"OO-ih, oo-oooo!"
"Oo-ih, oo-oooo!"
Something is missing from the sound
Outside the window, in the frost.
"Oo-ih, oo-oooo!"
"Oo-ih, oo-oooo!"
All the "oo's" are very round
But somehow all the "t's" got lost.
Poor Roger knows how poets wrote
That owls are always singing out
"Too-whit, Too-who, a merry note"
He does his best, beyond a doubt.
(Roger is really good as gold.)
But unlike other owls,
He only howls in vowels.

Perhaps he has a cold.

Poem used by explicit consent of the Estate of John Hollander.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Peter Knell (b. 1970) has received numerous awards in national and international competitions, including First Prizes in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's 10th New Music Festival International Composers Competition, the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival/Louisville Orchestra Prize, and the Omaha Symphony Guild International New Music Competition, as well as Second Prizes in the Fourth International Witold Lutoslawski Composers Competition, the First International Composers' Competition "*In Memoriam Zoltán Kodály*", and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Competition. Peter was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, a BMI Student Composer Award, two ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Awards, grants from the Paloheimo Foundation and Meet the Composer, and commissions from the Fromm Music Foundation/Ying Quartet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, Utah Arts Festival, Pacific Serenades, Oakland East Bay Symphony, and Dale Warland Singers, among others.

Peter's music has been performed at the Aspen, Bowdoin, Chautauqua, June in Buffalo, Norfolk, Oregon Bach, Ernest Bloch, New Music North and MATA festivals, by ensembles such as the Hungarian Radio Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, Filharmonia de Stat "Transilvania", Winnipeg, Omaha, Richmond, Memphis, and Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestras, the Doric String Quartet, Onyx String Quartet, Verdi Quartet, Southwest Chamber Music, Volti Chamber Chorus, counter)induction, and by soloists including James Dunham, Martin Chalifour, and the German alto Ingeborg Danz. It has been broadcast in Russia, Canada, Hungary and Finland, as well as in several American cities. His orchestral work *LINES/ANGLES* was the American selection for the ISCM World Music Days 2009 and was performed in September 2009 by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Peter's solo violin work *Seven Last Words*, based on paintings of German artist Rolf Stein, is available in a book/compact disc format from Valve-Hearts, Cologne. A compact disc featuring his orchestral work, "*...the weakening eye of day*" in a live performance by the Budapest Symphony Orchestra is available on the Artisjus label, and a compact disc featuring German pianist Susanne Kessel performing two of his *Four Snapshots* is available on OehmsClassics. A compact disc of Peter's complete piano music performed by German pianist Markus Pawlik was released by Sono Luminus in 2013.

Peter holds degrees from Princeton University (BA), the Juilliard School (MM), and the University of Texas at Austin (DMA), and he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. His principal composition teachers have included Dan Welcher, Donald Grantham, and David Diamond. He is currently based in Los Angeles.