

Nicholas A. Batina (1998)

allemansrätten

for orchestra

Program Note:

allemansrätten refers to a right to public access of wilderness, recognized in the countries of Austria, Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic. With an exception to economic exploits, citizens of these nations enjoy the freedom to travel on public and privately owned land, primarily for recreation, without much impediment. As a born-and-raised citizen of the United States, I was shocked to learn that the "Land of the Free" did not enjoy this particular freedom, despite the fact that I spent most of my childhood camping on private land in the Appalachian forests of Western Maryland. I was living the life of an outlaw according to the books, with little consequence. For others, elsewhere, the anxious straight and narrow leads to destruction regardless.

allemansrätten, for orchestra, reflects on the shock one feels when first recognizing the disconnect between a nation's truth and a nation's fiction. For me, I discovered it at age six in an isolated corner of the woods, in bubble wrap. For others, the discovery happens as soon as cognition kicks in, and is instilled in the child via the parent or guardian for their continued safety as early as possible. I discovered that what came naturally to me as a child was illegal to the world at large, to the State, and that the discovery was indicative of a much larger dynamic which would be revealed in time. If I were someone else, living a different life, in a different place, with different skin, such illegal "being" would give rise to state-sanctioned annihilation of my body.

Dedicated to Dr. Beena Butool

"I write you in your 15th year. I am writing you because this was the year you saw Eric Garner choked to death for selling cigarettes; because you know now that Renisha McBride was shot for seeking help, that John Crawford was shot down for browsing in a department store. And you have seen men in uniform drive by and murder Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old child whom they were oath-bound to protect.

And you know now, if you did not before, that the police departments of your country have been endowed with the authority to destroy your body. It does not matter if the destruction is the result of an unfortunate overreaction. It does not matter if it originates in a misunderstanding. It does not matter if the destruction springs from a foolish policy. Sell cigarettes without the proper authority and your body can be destroyed. Turn into a dark stairwell and your body can be destroyed. The destroyers will rarely be held accountable...

Mostly they will receive pensions..."

- Ta-Nehisi Coates, Letter to My Son

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The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony, featuring various instruments. The score is written in 2/4 time, with a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 52$. The instruments listed on the left include Flute 1&2, Piccolo, Oboe, English Horn, Bass Oboe, Clarinet in B♭ 1&2, Bass Clarinet in B♭, Contrabass Clarinet in B♭, Bassoon 1&2, Contrabassoon, Horn in F 1-4, Trumpet in B♭ 1&2, Piccolo Trumpet in B♭, Trombone 1&2, Bass Trombone, Tuba, Harp, Piano, Celesta, -1/4 Tone-Piano, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass.

The score includes musical notation, dynamics (pp, mp, ppp), and performance instructions like "non vibrato con sord". The page shows measures 1 through 9, with a repeat sign at the end of measure 9. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout, with woodwinds and strings in the front, brass in the middle, and harp and piano in the back.

[illegible]

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

FL. *mp* *pp* *pp-7* *fp*

Picc. *mp* *ppp* *pp-7* *fp*

Ob. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *pp-7* *fp*

Eng. Hn. *pp* *pp-7* *fp*

Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Cb. Cl. *ppp*

Bsn. *ppp*

Cbsn. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Hn. stopped *ff*

Tpt. *ff*

Picc. Tpt. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Hp.

Pno. *6* *5* *6* *7* *7* *6* *5* *6* *5* *6* *6* *7*

Cel.

-1/4 Pno. *7* *7* *6* *5* *6* *7* *6* *5* *6* *7* *6* *7* *6* *7* *6* *7* *6* *7*

Vln. I *ppp* *f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vln. II *ppp* *f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *pp* *ppp* *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *ff* *p*

Db. *ppp* *f* *ff*

snap pizz *f* *mf*

non vibrato con sord arco *mf*

snap pizz *f* *mf*

non vibrato con sord arco *mf*

snap pizz arco *f* *ff* *p*

snap pizz arco *f* *ff*

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

6

Fl.

Picc.

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

B. Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Picc. Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Hp.

Pno.

Cel.

-1/4 Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

43

FL

Picc.

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

B. Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Picc. Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Hp.

Pno.

Cel.

-1/4 Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Via.

Vc.

Db.

[illegible]