

PRELUDE AND SONG

Etienne de Lavaulx

Andante *m.m.* ♩ = 92 *sustained, with serenity.*

mp
mellow
cresc
brightening
f
decrec
mf
mellow
cresc
brightening
B II
f
decrec
mf
mellow
cresc
brightening
B II
f
decrec
mf
a little metallic.

Prelude and Song (2)

Largo. freely, with expression.

at once

I

B III

B II

h. XII

f

sfz

rall. --

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

repeat prelude

The prelude is built upon a chord progression and a syncopated arpeggio. I first played it as I was contemplating a beautiful picture of a deep canyon topped with some scattered clouds which revealed, as they floated by, a great expanse of starry sky. Whether the scene belonged to dawn or to dusk, to earth or to a distant planet, one could not tell. Nothing but silent tranquillity emanated from it.

As I was playing, three variations eventually took shape (A B & C), and I have kept them untouched to this day. The song differs with the prelude in the same way as melody does with harmony or shape with texture. Like a flower among rocks, it offers a refreshing spell but leads ineluctably back into the deep canyon, topped with advancing clouds, starry sky behind.