

The background of the entire image is an abstract pattern of thick, wavy, yellow lines on a dark blue background. The lines are irregular and organic, resembling a marbled paper or a topographical map. A horizontal yellow band runs across the middle of the image, containing the title and author's name.

signum
CLASSICS

TIDE HARMONIC

JOBY TALBOT

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1	Dew Point	[18.31]
2	Hadal Zone	[15.37]
3	Storm Surge	[9.05]
4	Algal Bloom	[15.13]
5	Confluence	[13.54]
	Total timings:	[72.20]

TIDE HARMONIC

This is a piece about water. It is a journey through the physical properties, the processes and systems, of a substance that covers 70% of our planet's surface and constitutes three-quarters of our own bodies.

Without water there can be no life. Uniquely, water is found naturally in all three common physical states – solid, liquid, and gas. At standard temperature and pressure it is in dynamic equilibrium between the liquid and gas states. Its solid state floats on top of its liquid form and reflects infrared radiation. As a liquid it has such exceptionally high surface tension that, through capillary action, it can defy the forces of gravity to travel up narrow tubes to treetops hundreds of feet above the ground. Oxygen dissolves in it. It warms the continents in winter and cools them in summer. It nourishes and cleanses us. It is the very reason life exists.

In *Tide Harmonic* I have attempted to create a kind of water symphony that, rather than constructing a poetic or narrative programme inspired by man's relationship with water, instead focuses on the substance itself, the

forces that act upon it, and the energy that flows through and from it.

After an initial downpour, *Dew Point* begins to slowly unfold in a relentless flowing trajectory. I imagined water vapour condensing as microscopic droplets of dew, coalescing and beginning to flow in ever broader channels to finally flood out as a great river into the sea. *Hadal Zone* considers the pressurised viscous frigidity of the ocean's lightless depths, while *Storm Surge* is about wave energy – a musical representation of a storm at sea. *Algal Bloom* watches as the perfect balance of the global water system is disrupted and destroyed by mankind's careless intervention. The music collapses in on itself before *Confluence* expresses hope for the future in water's power to cleanse and heal.

Tide Harmonic started life as the score for *Eau*, a new piece of dance created by legendary American choreographer, Carolyn Carlson and the dancers of the Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord-Pas de Calais. Images and stage design were by the French cineaste Alain Fleischer, and the piece was first performed on April 2nd 2008 at the Lille Opera House by the Orchestre National de Lille, conducted by

Christopher Austin. The soloists at the premiere were Aiko Miyamoto and Christophe Maréchal (percussion), Anne Le Roy (harp) and Jeremy Holland-Smith and myself (keyboards).

The two weeks we spent in Lille were amazing – inspirational, terrifying, in turn frustrating and deeply fulfilling. We came away determined to try to capture the experience in a studio recording. This CD is the result, and I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the many people who have helped this project come to fruition in the four years since I first sat down with Carolyn and heard her ideas for an evening of dance all about water. I should like to thank: Gill Graham and everyone at Chester Music; the great Carolyn Carlson herself; Yannick Marzin, her artistic producer, and all at CCN Roubaix; Christopher Austin, whose friendship and dedication to this music, both as conductor and chief orchestrator of the original version were a constant source of inspiration; Ben Foskett, Gavin Higgins and Nick Martin, who worked with Chris on those initial arrangements, and Richard Chester who reimagined the piece electronically for subsequent performances of the dance; Jeremy Holland-Smith with whom I collaborated on this chamber version, and whose friendship and beautiful playing helped

make the Lille performances such an extraordinary experience; François Bou and the musicians and soloists of the Orchestre National De Lille; Chris Worsey, Rob Farrer, Manon Morris and all the musicians on this recording; Catherine Manners and David McLeery at Manners McDade Artist Management; Alison Burton and everyone at Air Lyndhurst Studios; Steve Long and Signum Records; and finally my wonderful family and friends who watered this music with their encouragement and love: Maurice, Claire, Jean, Charlotte, Luke, Jerry and Eos, and Liz. Thank you...

Joby Talbot, London, November 2010

BIOGRAPHY

Joby Talbot's compositional aesthetic threads through his classical and concert works; collaborations with major contemporary choreographers; and scores for the screen.

For the concert platform, Talbot has composed widely for major orchestras, soloists and vocal groups. Works for large ensembles have included the trumpet concerto *Desolation Wilderness* for Alison Balsom and the RLPO, and the 60-minute à cappella choral work *Path of Miracles* for Nigel Short's Tenebrae. Talbot's madrigal *The Wishing Tree* for The King's Singers and *Sneaker Wave* for the BBC National Orchestra of Wales were both commissioned by the BBC Proms. In 2004 he was appointed Classic FM's inaugural Composer-in-Residence.

Talbot's music has appealed to some of Europe's leading choreographers, including Royal Ballet resident choreographer Wayne McGregor, with whom he collaborated on *Entity* for Random Dance; *Genus* (co-written with LA musician Deru) for the Paris Opera Ballet; and on *Chroma* for the Royal Ballet. This latter work

is choreographed to Talbot's arrangements of songs by The White Stripes from the album *Aluminium*, conceived by XL Recordings founder Richard Russell. The full-length *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a co-commission between The Royal Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada, was Talbot's second collaboration with Christopher Wheeldon, whose work *Fool's Paradise* for Morphoses was choreographed to Talbot's *The Dying Swan*. *Tide Harmonic* was written for a dance collaboration with choreographer Carolyn Carlson and the Orchestre National de Lille, originally entitled *Eau*.

2011 saw Talbot undertake a number of projects across concert and screen platforms, including a work based on the Purcell *Chacony in G Minor*, commissioned by the BBC for their 2011 Proms season for performance by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Joby Talbot, © Johan Persson

THE ORCHESTRA

PIANO, CELESTA, & HARMONIUM:

JOBY TALBOT & JEREMY HOLLAND-SMITH

HARP: MANON MORRIS & DEIAN ROWLANDS

PERCUSSION: ROB FARRER & STEVE GIBSON

VIOLIN: EVERTON NELSON, PATRICK KIERNAN,

EOS CHATER & RICK KOSTER

VIOLA: MORGAN GOFF

CELLO: CHRIS WORSEY & IAN BURDGE

BASS: MARY SCULLEY

CONDUCTOR: JEREMY HOLLAND-SMITH

Recorded at Air Lyndhurst Studios, London, July–August 2009

Arranged by Joby Talbot and Jeremy Holland-Smith

Produced by Joby Talbot

Recorded and Mixed by Mark Wyllie

Assistant Engineer - Tom Bailey

Mastered by Mike Hatch, Floating Earth

Published by Chester Music Ltd

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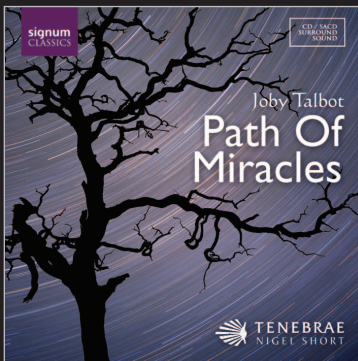
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