

13:14

For SATB Chorus, a cappella

Elisa Schmelkes

Program notes

At exactly 13:14 on September 19th, 2017, an earthquake violently shook Mexico City and the Valley of Mexico. This work narrates the composer's personal experience of this event and the days that followed. First, the terrifying experience of the earthquake itself, followed by a short period of chaos and uncertainty as news started trickling in about collapsed buildings and unfolding tragedies. The gridlocked city was a sea of people with blank faces walking home, some of them for tens of kilometers, avoiding broken glass and cracked concrete, all certainty gone from their lives.

As one approaches a collapsed building, the energy changes. A sense of urgency overcomes you, the air is filled with dust, it becomes nearly impossible to breathe. People are shouting instructions and running around. The grotesque remains of what once was a building tower before you, unreal. Before anyone can process the tragedy, a single purpose has replaced all uncertainty. Everyone is doing everything they can to get the trapped people out. Before you can process what happened, everything is forgotten, nothing else matters, you join the line of people carrying small buckets full of what little is left of the building and the former life of its inhabitants. Someone in a hard hat raises their fist to request silence so the cries for help rising from the rubble can be heard. Everyone raises their fists in response.

Nobody came to save us, so we had to save ourselves. Social media suddenly became the place where we could organize help. Through social media we would know what was needed and where to take it, we could request help knowing it would arrive. But it was impossible to comply with every request, and some of them are still echoing through the void, without an answer.

That day, we felt the world was coming to an end. Maybe it did. We haven't been the same since.

The structure of the music follows the unfolding of the events. The music includes programmatic elements such as the earthquake alarm and the helicopters and ambulances reacting to the disaster. Each of the sections uses its own pitch class set.

The leitmotif E - E flat - C - B is a solmization of the composer's name (ESCH), indicating the subjective nature of the experience narrated in the music. The tweets in section [D] were taken verbatim from social media, and are a representative sample of what was being requested during the crisis. The poem in section [F] was written by José Emilio Pacheco regarding the 1985 earthquake, which took place exactly 32 years earlier to the day. Finally, the latin chant in section [G] was taken from the text in the Old Testament that was the inspiration for the Dies Irae.

Performance notes

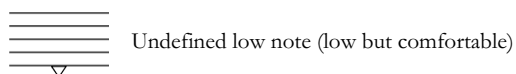
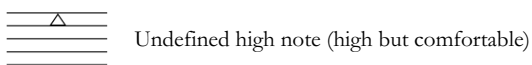
Percussion lines can be played by any or all singers, as appropriate. Chest beats should be done with a closed fist.

In bars 15-18, the ambulance glissando works best if a single soprano and a single alto sing the glissandi.

In section [D] each of the soloists should take out their cell phone and read their part, clearly, with a sense of urgency, and *ad libitum*.

The larger the typeface, the more the text should stand out. If the soloist finishes reading their text before the spoken part is over, they should loop back to the beginning of the text.

The end result should be a cacophony in which some words and phrases stand out



Tweets (taken from Twitter and Whatsapp groups, September 19-25, 2017)

Encontraron diez personas vivas en Álvaro Obregón 286, urge una cortadora de concreto y discos de punta diamante de 14 y 16 pulgadas. #Verificado19s 24 de septiembre 19:48

En Rebsamen urgen hojas de laringoscopia pediátrica 1 y 2 rectas, relajantes musculares, decurionio, lo que sea de anestesiología que se pueda conseguir, están a punto de sacar a un niño.

Necesitamos un epidemiólogo para verificar si se está generando una epidemia en San Gregorio, Xochimilco. No hay agua y la gente está usando el agua del canal para higiene personal y para cocinar. 23 de septiembre 8:24 am #Verificado19s

#Verificado19s Solicitamos SILENCIO TOTAL en un radio de 2km alrededor del Multifamiliar Tlalpan entre 17:30 y 18:30. 22 septiembre 14 hrs

URGE la mototrozadora y los discos de punta diamante en Álvaro Obregón, por favor, no ha llegado y la gente sigue atrapada! Difundan lo más posible. #Verificado19s 25 de septiembre 3:23 am

En Paseo de Antioquia y Av. Tlahuac acaban de asaltar el campamento de desalojados, se llevaron TODO. Falta comida, agua y apoyo. 24 septiembre 8:26 pm #Verificado19s

Por favor compartan la foto, Juan Pablo Irigoyen Ramírez es mi primo, residente de Escocia #4, sigue desaparecido, nos urge encontrarlo! #Verificado19s 25 de septiembre 12:17

#Verificado19s 23:38 horas, 23 de septiembre: En Chimalpopoca y Bolívar HAY VIDA. Alguien golpeó en los escombros de la fábrica. Se requiere presencia, de forma pacífica.

Ten living people werre found at 286 Álvaro Obregón. We urgently need a concrete cutter and 14 and 16" diamond blade saws. #Verified19S September 24 19:48

At Rebsamen we need pediatric laryngoscope blades, sizes 1 and 2, muscle relaxants, any anesthesiology drugs you can find, they're about to rescue a child.

We need an epidemiologist to verify if a disease is breaking out in San Gregorio, Xochimilco. There is no water and people are using the water from the channel for personal hygiene and food consumption. September 23rd 8:34 am #Verified19S

#Verified19S We require TOTAL SILENCE in a 2 km radius around the Tlalpan Housing Project between 17:30 and 18:30 hrs. September 22 14 hrs

We URGENTLY need the concrete cutter and diamond blade saws at Alvaro Obregon, please, they still haven't arrived and people are still stuck inside! Share as much as possible. #Verified19S September 25 3:23 AM

At Paseo de Antioquia and Tlahuac Ave. the camp of evicted tenants has been mugged, they took EVERYTHING. We need food, water and support. September 24 8:26 pm.

Please share this picture, Juan Pablo Irigoyen Ramirez is my cousin, he was a resident at Escocia 4, he is still missing, we need to find him! #Verified19S September 25 12:17

#Verified19S 23:38 hrs, September 23: At Chimalpopoca and Bolívar THERE ARE PEOPLE STILL ALIVE INSIDE. We heard someone making sounds inside the rubble. We require peaceful presence.

List of collapsed buildings

(The first Whatsapp message most of us received, through which we realized the gravity of the situation)

- Zapata y Petén: Edificio colapsado.
- Miramontes y Las Bombas: Incendio y derrumbe de dos edificios.
- Soriana de Taxqueña: Colapsado, personas atrapadas.
- Primaria Rebsamen, Av. Brujas y Madero / Niños atrapados URGENTE
- Genova 37: Edificio Colapsado.
- Lomas Estrella: 2 edificios colapsados
- Alvaro Obregón y Valladolid: Edificio colapsado
- Gabriel Mancera y Escocia. / 3 Edificios Colapsados
- Alvaro Obregon 286: Edificio Colapsado
- Baja California y Torreón: Edificio Colapsado
- Amores y Viaducto: Edificio colapsado
- Tren descarrilado en el metro Nopalera. Personas atrapadas
- San Luis y Medellín - Edificio Colapsado
- Viaducto y Gabriel Mancera / Edificio Colapsado
- Puebla y Medellín / Fuga de gas
- Escuela primaria Montesquieu. Derrumbe
- Eje 2 sur y Amsterdam. Derrumbe
- Calz. del hueso y Rancho del Arco / 3 Edificios Derrumbados
- Santa Ana y Ejido / Derrumbe con 5 personas atrapadas URGENTE
- Zapata corner of Petén: Collapsed building.
- Miramontes corner of Las Bombas: Fire and collapse of two buildings.
- Soriana supermarket at Taxqueña: Collapsed, people trapped.
- Rebsamen primary school, Brujas Ave. corner of Madero / trapped children URGENT
- Genova 37: Collapsed building.
- Lomas Estrella: 2 collapsed buildings
- Alvaro Obregón corner of Valladolid: Collapsed building
- Gabriel Mancera corner of Escocia. / 3 collapsed buildings
- Alvaro Obregon 286: Collapsed building
- Baja California corner of Torreón: Collapsed building
- Amores corner of Viaducto: Collapsed building
- Derailed train at Nopalera Metro station. Trapped people
- San Luis corner of Medellín. Collapsed building
- Viaducto corner of Gabriel Mancera / Collapsed building
- Puebla corner of Medellín / Gas leak
- Montesquieu Primary School. Collapsed
- Eje 2 sur corner of Amsterdam. Collapsed
- Boulevard Del Hueso corner of Rancho del Arco / 3 Collapsed Buildings
- Santa Ana corner of Ejido / Collapse, five trapped people URGENT

Las Ruinas de México(Fragment) by José Emilio Pacheco

Tú que sobreviviste
la intolerable asfixia,
el enterrado en vida:
perdón.

No pude darte nada,
mi ayuda, ¿de qué sirve?
Muerto que no conozco:
perdón.

Requiem sequence

Requiem aeternam
dona eis domine
In paradisum

Zephaniah 1:1-8

Dies irae, dies illa
Dies tribulationes et angustiae
Dies calamitatis et miseriae
Dies tenebrarum et caliginis
Dies nebulae et turbinis
Dies tubae et clangorum
Super civitatem nostram

You who survived (the violence of the earthquake)
(only to perish by) intolerable suffocation
You, who was buried alive,
forgive me.

There was nothing I could give you
What is my solidarity worth?
Dead man whom I don't know,
forgive me.

Give them
eternal rest, O Lord
in paradise

That day is a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,
A day of trumpet and alarm
Upon our city

13:14

ELISA SCHMELKES

Presto tenebroso ♩ = 100

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mf*
Ta-ku- ta! sha-ra-ka

Bass *mp*
Tum-k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum-k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum-k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka

Foot stomps *f*

4

Ta-ku- ta! tum ta-ku- ta! sha-ra- ka Tum ta-ku- ta! tum ta-ku- ta! sha-ra- ka

mf
tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka - ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka - ch-ka

7

mf
We - yo - we - yo - we

ff Earthquake alarm
Wa - u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa - u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa - u

Tum ta-ku- ta! tum ta-ku- ta! sha-ra-ka Tum ta-ku- ta! tum ta-ku- ta! sha-ra-ka Tum ta-ku- ta! tum ta-ku- ta! sha-ra-ka

f
tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka

10

We - yo - we - yo - ah We - yo - we - yo - we tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka

Wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa - u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa-u wa - u

Tum ta-ku- ta! tum ta-ku- ta! sha-ra-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka

tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka

13

p subito *ff* *f* Una soprano y una contralto hacen glissandos, imitando una ambulancia

tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka-ch-ka Wu

tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka-ch-ka Wu

tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka-ch-ka Ch - k - ch - k - ch - k...

tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tum - k-tum tum tam_ ku tum ra-ka ch-ka tu-tum tu-tum tu-tum tu-tum

p subito *ff* *f* Free rhythm, imitating a helicopter

mp

16

tu-tum tu-tum tu-tum tu-tum tu - tum tu - tum tu - tum tu - tum Tum tum tum tum

tu-tum tu-tum tu-tum tu-tum tu - tum tu - tum tu - tum tu - tum Tum tum tum tum

f *p* *mf*

21 *f* *mp*

E - yo e - ya

E - ya

E - yo ah

E - yo Eh dum dum dum

27 **A** Spectral ♩ = 90 *p* *mf*

Dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_

Dim dim dim dim dim dim dim

Dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_

Dim dim dim dim dim dim dim

34 *mp* *accel.*

dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_

dim dim dim dim dim dim dim

dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_

dim dim dim dim dim dim dim

41

dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim

dim dim dim dim dim dim

dim dim dim dim dim dim dim

dim dim Tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom

47

f dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim_ dim

f dim dim dim dim

f dim dim dim dim

f tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom

B Marching ♩. = 70

51

mf E - - o - - u - ah E - - o - - u - ah

mf E - - o - - u - ah E - - o - - u - ah

mf E - - o - - u - ah E - - o - - u - ah

f Tom tu - ka tom, tom tu - ka tom, to - rom to - rom to - rom Tom tu - ka tom, tom tu - ka tom, to - rom to - rom to - rom

53

f
E - o - u - ah E - o - u - ah

f
E - o - u - ah E - o - u - ah

f
E - o - u - ah E - o - u - ah

ff
Tom tu - ka tom, tom tu - ka tom tom to - to - rom to - rom to - ro - to to - ro - to - tom to - to - rom to - rom

C

55

mp
E - o - u - ah E - o - u - ah

mp
Pol - vo, pie - dra, ce - ni - za Pol - vo, pie - dra, ce - ni - za

mp
Pol - vo, pie - dra, pol - vo, pie - dra pol - vo, pie - dra, pol - vo, pie - dra

mf
Tom tu - ka tom, tom tu - ka tom to - rom to - rom to - rom Tom tu - ka tom, tom tu - ka tom, tom to - to - rom to - rom

Chest beats

Foot stomps

57

f E - o - u - ah *ff* E - o - u - ah Levantar puño izquierdo

mf pol - vo, pie - dra, pol - vo, pie - dra *f* pol - vo, pie - dra, ce - ni - za Levantar puño izquierdo

mf pol - vo, pie - dra, pol - vo, pie - dra *f* Levantar puño izquierdo

Tom tu - ka tom tu - ka tom to - to - rom to - rom tom to - to - rom to - rom to - rom to - rom to - rom Levantar puño izquierdo

El solista comienza a enlistar los edificios colapsados. Cuatro miembros del coro empiezan a decir sus textos, uno por uno.

Cuando estén hablando los cinco al mismo tiempo y se haya generado cierta tensión, los coralistas empiezan a tocar la percusión (compás 67) por cuatro compases antes de que entre la línea del tenor. Las partes habladas van saliendo poco a poco mientras van entrando las partes cantadas.

60 **D** Leer de teléfono celular

Solista

Zapata y Petén: Edificio colapsado. Miramontes y Las Bombas: Incendio y derrumbe de dos edificios. Soriana de Taxqueña: Colapsado, personas atrapadas. Primaria Rebsamen, Av. Brujas y Madero: Niños atrapados **URGENTE**

63

Soloist

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67

Soloist


Baja California y Torreón: Edificio Colapsado. Amores y Viaducto: Edificio colapsado. Tren descarrilado en el metro Nopalera. Personas atrapadas. San Luis y Medellin: Edificio Colapsado. Viaducto y Gabriel Mancera: Edificio Colapsado. Puebla y Medellin: Fuga de gas

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71 **E**

mf

E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah!

f portato *mf*

E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah!

Chest beats

Foot stomps

75

mp *f* *ff*

E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - o - ah!

mp *f* *ff*

E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - o - ah!

mp *f* *ff*

E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - o - ah!

f *ff*

E - o - u - o - ah!

F Funeral march ♩ = 60

79

mp *mf*

Tú que so-bre - vi - vis - te la in - to - le - ra - ble as - fi - xia,

mp *mf*

Tú que so-bre - vi - vis - te la in - to - le - ra - ble as - fi - xia,

p *mp*

Dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram

p *mp*

Re - qui - em ae - ter - nam, ae - ter - nam,

el en - te - rra - do en vi - da: per - dón.

el en - te - rra - do en vi - da: per - dón.

dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram

do - na e - is do - mi - ne

mp No pu - de dar - te na - da, mi a - yu - da, de qué

mp No pu - de dar - te na - da, *mf* mi a - yu - da, de qué sir - ve?

p dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram

p Re - qui - em ae - ter - nam, ae - ter - nam

mf sir - ve? Muer - to que no co - noz - co:

Muer - to que no co - noz - co: per - dón. per -

dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram dim da - ram

p do - na e - is do - mi - ne In

95 *mp* *ff* *sub p*

Di - - - - es i - - - - rae di - - - -

dón. *mp* *ff* *sub p*

Di - - - - es i - - - - rae, m...

dim da - ram *dim* da - ram *dim* da - ram *dim* da - ram *dim* da - ram *dim* da - ram dam m...

pa - - - - ra - - - - di - - - - sum. *ff* *sub p*

G

99 **Piú mosso** ♩ = 70 *mf*

es il - - - - la - - - - su - - - - per - - - - ci -

Di - es tri - bu - la - ti - o - nes et an - gus - tiæ, di - es ca - la - mi - ta - tis et mi -

sub p

Di - es tri - bu - la - ti - o - nes et an - gus - tiæ, di - es ca - la - mi - ta - tis et mi -

mp

Di - es tri - bu - la - ti - o - nes et an - gus - tiæ, di - es ca - la - mi - ta - tis et mi -

105 *ff* *mf* *mf* *mf*

- vi - - - - ta - - - - tem - - - - nos - - - - tram, - - - - ci -

mf

se - riæ, di - es te - ne - bra - rum et ca - li - gi - nis, di - es ne - bu - læ et tur - bi - nis, di - es

mf

se - riæ, di - es te - ne - bra - rum et ca - li - gi - nis, di - es ne - bu - læ et tur - bi - nis, di - es

mf

se - riæ, di - es te - ne - bra - rum et ca - li - gi - nis, di - es ne - bu - læ et tur - bi - nis, di - es

111

ff - - - vi - - - ta - - -

ff tu - bæ et clan - go - ris su - per

ff E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah!

Tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom to - rom to - rom to - rom Tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom to - rom to - rom to - rom

Chest beats

Foot stomps

113

- - - tem nos - - -

ci - - vi - - ta - - tem nos - - -

E - o - u - ah! E - o - u - ah!

Tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom to - rom to - rom to - rom Tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom to - rom to - rom to - rom

Chest beats

Foot stomps

115

fp Levantar puño izquierdo *fff* *tutta forza*

- - - tram! - - -

fp Levantar puño izquierdo *fff* *tutta forza*

- - - tram! - - -

fp Levantar puño izquierdo *fff* *tutta forza*

E - o - u - o ah! - - -

fp Levantar puño izquierdo *fff* *tutta forza*

Tom tu - ka tom tom tu - ka tom to - rom to - rom to - rom ah! - - -

Chest beats

Foot stomps