

The Brocken

for voice and piano

2025–26

Rylan Gleave

(b.1997)

The Brocken was commissioned by **Lea Shaw** in 2025 for *And when the light returned, I, transfigured, awoke*, with funding from **Creative Scotland**.

Instrumentation

Voice (B $\flat$ ₃ – A $\flat$ ₅)
Piano

Duration

C. 5'30"

Programme Note

Brocken spectres are magnified, enormous shadows cast in mid air on clouds opposite strong lights, the basis of ghost stories and legends. The Brocken mountain in Germany, where these spectres are common phenomenon, is the highest peak in the Harz mountain range. Subalpine, but with a microclimate resembling mountains far higher, it has long been connected with folklore, Faust, and witchcraft.

Our *Brocken* draws on suspicion and conviction, a seeing of your rational spectre but gut-knowing something is amiss. Written for and with Lea Shaw, *The Brocken* follows the protagonist up a mountain, tracking an elusive shadow always a step ahead.

Rylan Gleave
he/him
address all questions to; rylangleave@gmail.com
www.rylangleave.com
(+44) 7793095929

Copyright © Rylan Gleave (Leith 2025–26)

The Brocken

Lyrics by Rylan Gleave

Rylan Gleave
(b.1997)

Rolling hills, summer ♪ = 126 *p* chilled, but a little resigned

I've _____ been

pp rich, warm in intention
una corda

(*poco*)
sim. sempre,
something lurking

6

see ing _____ ghosts, I'm sure _____

12

(*natural*)

Glist _____ ning off wet rocks _____ and shall-ow

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a vocal line with a long note on 'I've' and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. The second system (measures 6-11) continues the vocal line with 'see ing ghosts, I'm sure' and the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 12-15) includes a key signature change to one flat (Bb) and a time signature change to 3/4, with the vocal line singing 'Glist ning off wet rocks and shall-ow'. Performance markings include 'pp rich, warm in intention una corda', '(poco) sim. sempre, something lurking', and '(natural)'.

15

pools

p

19

mp between desire and fear

She's _____ been watch - ing _____ me, I'm sure _____

pp tres corde

p

23

mf just a little manic

Dance - laugh - ing

8va

pp eerie

mp

(mp)

28 *sim.* *(natural)* *f*

in the gorse I've seen

(8) *(pp)* *(mp)*

31 *(natural)* *rit.*

foot-steps that aren't mine

f *p*

35 *a tempo* *accel.*

mp flowing, near a river
arp. rapid as possible *sim. sempre*

Limbs aching, climbing upwards ♪ = 144

39 *mf* *nearing desperate*

I caught a glimpse of her hair

42 *intoning, naturally microtonal inflection* *a lick of jealousy*

strand - ed like sheep's wool in branch - es But the wind was more smit-ten___ with

45 *accel.* *f* *resolved*

___ her And quick, snatched it out of my fin - gers So I've

Volatile, eyes wide ♪ = 152

48

wrapped my arms in brack-en give-n my-self wings I've

f

8vb

poco rall.

52

fol-lowed ev-ry peal-ing smirk that ech-oes off the cliffs

p

8vb

Limbs aching, climbing upwards ♪ = 144

56

Stumb-ling up, Thick

fff *ff*

ff *p* *f*

8vb

61 *natural* *p*

— with sweat — and dew, To the high - est

pp

66 **Dragging, exhausted** ♩ = 108

peak

pp *unsettled, cold*
una corda

(poco)
sim. sempre,
something lurking

70

ppp *eerie*
8va

(pp) *keep pedal down

poco rit. Even less... ♩ = 100

p looking over the cliff edge

74

Do you think I could float down?

(8)

78

I've searched ev-ry clod of earth, ev-ry car - cass

(8)

81

mp deep sadness

The clouds have-n't part-ed

(8)

p

84

The sun in its glo - ry rings_ is si - lent

pp

Your last breath ♪ = 116

Messa di voce

86

Float down... do you think I could float down? Float...

mf

88

p *fff*

pp arp. rapid as possible

*natural**molto rit.*

90

Musical score for measures 90-92. The score is written for a single melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The melodic line starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then two whole rests. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a series of chords and a left hand with a series of chords. The right hand starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then two whole rests. The left hand starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then two whole rests. The piano accompaniment is marked *ff* (fortissimo). The tempo is marked *molto rit.* (molto ritardando). The text *slow the arp. with the rit.* is written above the piano accompaniment.

93

Musical score for measures 93-95. The score is written for a single melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The melodic line starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then two whole rests. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a series of chords and a left hand with a series of chords. The right hand starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then two whole rests. The left hand starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then two whole rests. The piano accompaniment is marked *pp* (pianissimo). The tempo is marked *molto rit.* (molto ritardando).