# Patrick Andrew Thompson

# THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY

for Orchestra

2019 (revised 2020)

### Instrumentation

3 Flutes (2<sup>nd</sup> doubling Piccolo, 3<sup>rd</sup> doubling Alto Flute)

2 Oboes

English Horn in F

2 Clarinets in Bb

Bass Clarinet in Bb

3 Bassoons (3<sup>rd</sup> doubling Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F

3 Trumpets in C

2 Tenor Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

4 Percussion

Harp

Celesta

Strings

Percussion 1	Percussion 2	Percussion 3	Percussion 4
Vibraphone	Crotales	Suspended Cymbal	Tam-Tam
Glockenspiel	Tubular Bells	Bass Drum	Medium Gong
Snare Drum	Brake Drum	Splash Cymbal	Tambourine
Low Tom	Glockenspiel	Tubular Bells	Tubular Bells
	Marimba	Crotales	
		Sizzle Cymbal	

Score in C

Duration: ca 8 minutes

## Premiered on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 by the Peabody Symphony Orchestra Valery Saul, Conductor

#### **COMPOSER'S NOTE**

Originally meant to capture humanity's imperfect knowledge of God, to be fully revealed only in the afterlife, the phrase "Through a Glass, Darkly" has come to generally refer to seeing an object as an imperfect reflection of its true form. As looking through a curved or tinted mirror, we can only see distorted impressions.

The idea which opens this piece – a simple melody set against an ethereal shimmering texture – is reflected through many different guises as the music develops, continuously transformed but never quite reaching a full resolution. While this initial idea is immediately interrupted by a radically different texture of tense 16ths figurations, it is quick to return in a broader more weighted context - another glimpse of an object whose true form we can only attempt to grasp.

The music quickly moves through a wide expressive range, from an exuberant tutti outburst to a mysterious texture of high string harmonics suspended in time, but the original idea is never absent for long. It soon reveals itself in the form of a muted brass chorale, set against a floating and meditative ostinato, here morphed rhythmically and harmonically so as to only resemble the original in melodic contour. At the end of the piece, it expands into a climactic counterpoint of massive brass melodies set against a thick texture of string tremolos and ecstatically swirling woodwinds, whose bright harmonies belong to an altogether different world. The final harmony of the piece offers both a feeling of finality and a sense that the music is not yet finished even after it stops.

- Patrick Andrew Thompson

Score in C

## THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY









































































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