

The Pelican

meditation on the 2010 oil spill

words & music by

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♩ = 120

VOICE

Bass Clarinet
Clarinet in B \flat

mf

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

Piano

8

VOICE

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

arco

arco

arco

2

enters hunched over holding his arms like sings, making guttural squawks

15

mf

VOICE

Aah aah aah aah aah aah aah aah

Bs. Cl.

23

VOICE

aah aah aah aah aah aah aah

Bs. Cl.

30

free rhythmic speech

VOICE

aah aah. Annoying ain't it?

Bs. Cl.

34

VOICE

It's cause I can't sing. It's cause I'm the pelican.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

p
arco

Vln. 2

p
arco

Vla.

p
arco

Vlc.

p

39 *(mf)*

VOICE
8 Aah aah aah aah. Yeah I

Bs. Cl. *(mf)*

Vln. 1

Vlc.

45

VOICE
8 can't sing. But I'm still the pelican, and for good reason too:

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

50 *straightens up* > *f audacious*

VOICE
8 yer the reason. Yeah you! That's right! Aah aah!

Bs. Cl. *f*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf laughingly about something tough

VOICE

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf move around a lot throughout this piece

VOICE

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

62

VOICE

8

Sound for the zill-ionth time _____ for some nice big

Bs. Cl.

(8^{va})

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

3 3

65

VOICE

8

fish _____ (aah aah yum yum) then bing-o!

Bs. Cl.

(8^{va})

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

spoken rhythmically > >

68

VOICE

I'm all_ globbed_ up. (Forget the fish.) Can't_ flap. Can't_ fly.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

pizz.

arco

72

VOICE

(Guess I'm not de- signed for oil spills.) Aah_____ aah aah_____ aah

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

pizz.

melodramatic

3 3

76

VOICE

aah— aah aah aah aah aah And they just got through saying that I'm

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

79

VOICE

not endangered, to which I re-ply: "bull - crap and aah aah."

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f

arco

pizz. 3 3

arco

open strings

83 *mf*

VOICE
cause I can't move and I can't eat and I can't drink and I ain't wa-ter-proof no

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *pizz.*

Vla.

Vlc.

89 *with resignation* *bluegrass*

VOICE
more. So I guess I'm drown-ing. Bye bye, _____ my dar - lin and

Bs. Cl. *bluegrass*

Vln. 1 *bluegrass*

Vln. 2 *arco* *bluegrass*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

94

VOICE
8
glub glub. Then bin-go! I'm in a place called

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

f *mf*

f *mf*

Ped/ ad lib.

8vb -

97

VOICE
8
in-side, a place I never go. In-side a net. In-side a

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Pno.

f like a truck beeping when it backs up

100

VOICE *mp*

boat. Inside a van. Inside Fort Jackson. Inside a place I ne-ver go. They're

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Pno. *p* *15^{ma}*

104

VOICE *low voice*

check-in out my fea-thers. They're check-in out my blood.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1 *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *arco mp*

Vlc. *arco mp*

Pno. *mp* *8^{vb}* *15^{ma}*

mf like being tickled

107

VOICE

(Hey now I did-n't know ya cared!)

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

mf

mf

pizz. *mf*

pizz. *mf*

mf

mf

(8^{vb})

112

VOICE

A-ny-how... — now I got a tag but got no name on it. In - stead I got a num-ber cause the la-dy says I'm

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

f

arco

pizz.

VOICE *f* with mock pride
 not a pet. I'm a pel-i-can, a

Bs. Cl. *f*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. arco *mp*

Pno. *f*

8^{vb}

VOICE *crazy*
 wild a - ni - mal - a - ni - mal - a - ni - mal - a - ni -

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f* open strings

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Pno. *f*

122

VOICE

mal - a - ni - mal - a - ni - mal - aah! _____ and al-so

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

125

VOICE

Grrrrrrrrrr! _____ *mf* So I don't have a name. (But you al-ready

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

15^{ma}

8^{va}

ped.

130

VOICE

know my name.) Then bingo! Three days snoo-zin

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Pno.

f *mp* *f* *mp*

(15^{ma})

(8^{va})

8^{vb}

134

VOICE

(bet-ter than boo-zin, that one's meant for all ya

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vlc.

Pno.

mp

3

3

3

mf

137

VOICE
8 hu-mans out there). They gim-me flu - ids and food,

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vlc.

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

140

VOICE
8 Pep - to junk (aahk aahk), ca - no - la junk, and Dawn dish-wash-ing

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vlc.

Pno.

8vb-----

like an old fashioned commercial

143

VOICE

8

liq-uid, (It's new im - proved, not just for di - shes a - ny-more. It cuts through

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

pizz.
mf

pizz.
mf

146

VOICE

8

oil, not just for di - shes a - ny-more, so try new Dawn. It's not for

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

149

VOICE *announcer voice*

di-shes a-ny more, New Dawn's for me! _____ Try it in the new thousand

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

152

VOICE

liter bottle.) and then they got towels and tooth-bru-shes, spon-ges on sticks, and

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

155

chokingly

VOICE

fin-gers down my beak (gnaah gnaah), swoosh-ing wa-ter,

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vlc.

Pno.

158

half under his breath

VOICE

some-bo-dy holding my legs, some-bo-dy holding my wings. And ya

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

mf

Vln. 2

arco

Vla.

arco

Vlc.

pizz.

Pno.

161

VOICE

8 think I don't understand what's goin on? Well ya know what I think? I think

Bs. Cl.

p

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

p

165

VOICE

8 YOU don't understand what's goin on, so there! They rinse me.

Bs. Cl.

mf

Pno.

mf

mf

169

mp laid back

VOICE

They blow me dry. Now for a

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

arco
p laid back

Vln. 2

arco
p laid back

Vla.

arco
p laid back

Vlc.

arco
p laid back

Pno.

175

VOICE

nice padded pen. (Were ya e-ver in a nice

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

182

VOICE

pad-ded pen? That one's meant for all ya hu-mans out there.)

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

189

VOICE

f Then bin-go! *mf* Out-side: like a place I DO go.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

194

VOICE
Nice pool there. Nice four-tain there. Eat some nice fish from the pan there. Aah

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

199

VOICE
aah ^{glottal sound} gh-ulp. knowing he's making a bad joke
Proving once again dat it's dee OILY boid dat catches

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

203

emphatic

VOICE
duh fish. Al-li-ga-tor gars, eat your heart out!

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

207

VOICE
Three days til I'm wa-ter - proof. Then bin-go! In - side a-gain: a

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1
pizz. *f*

Vln. 2
pizz. *f*

Vla.
pizz. arco

Vlc.
pizz. *f*

Pno.

211

VOICE

place I ne-ver go NOW I've been here be-fore. In-side a van.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

214

VOICE

In - side a plane. Inside a boat. Inside Merritt Island and outside. But

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

looking around

218

VOICE

where out-side? *triumphant* This hardly ain't Louisiana.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

222

VOICE

That's why they call it FLAH - RIH - DAH. And ya

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

226

VOICE
8 think I don't understand what's goin on, to which I re-ply "bull - crap and

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vlc.

Pno.

229

VOICE
8 aah aah." La la la la la and aah aah aah aah aah! _____

dancing and acting out

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vlc.

Pno.

232

VOICE

I'll jump in that creek. And I'll grab that fish. I'll swim o-ver to that man-a-tee,

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

235

VOICE

just to check out how's he do-in. "Oh the hu-man-a-tee!" So

imitating Hindenberg reporter

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

arco

238

VOICE *mf*
 bye bye for now, all ya peo - ple that ya said you love me and were mad at

Bs. Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *arco*
mf

Pno.

8va

242

VOICE *more distant*
 eve - ry - bo - dy else. Bye bye my dar - lin' *sfz*
 annnnd

Bs. Cl.

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *arco*
p

Pno.
8vb

247 *mf* > flaps and waddles to other side of stage

VOICE
 Aah aah aah aah aah aah aah

Bs. Cl. *mf*

254

VOICE

8 aah aah aah aah aah aah etc.

Bs. Cl.

move from bass clarinet to clarinet on other side of stage

261 *(mf)* *still light but inwardly serious*

VOICE

8 But the show ain't over. Ya know somethin? I'll be back again,

Clarinet in B \flat

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

pp

pp

265

VOICE

8 cause I'm always back again. In fact I never left. It just looked like I left.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

270

VOICE

8

Ya just saw me on TV, that's all, so ya don't know for sure that I left,

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

p

275

VOICE

8

cause ya wasn't there. Yer just sayin I left. To which I reply:

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

280

VOICE

8

It's YOU that left. It's YOU that got covered with oil.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

285

VOICE

It's YOU that needs to get cleaned up. It's you that's endangered.

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

288

VOICE

That's why I'm here. I'm always here,

Clarinet in B \flat

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

8va

mf

mf

mf

292

VOICE

before you was here, before there even was a "here",

B \flat Cl.

(8va)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

296

VOICE

lovingly I am here. *proudly and more animated* That's how come I'm on the state seal,

B \flat Cl.

(8va)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

300

VOICE

That's how come I'm on the state flag,

B♭ Cl.

(mf)

Vln. 1

(mf)

Vln. 2

(mf)

Vla.

(mf)

Vlc.

pizz.

mf

Pno.

mf

303

VOICE

and the archdiocese's coat of arms, So check it out:

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

306

VOICE

I'm not just trying to look cute.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

309

warning

from the gut

VOICE

Check it out: I'm feedin my babies.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

312

VOICE

It's part of the symbol.

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

315

annoyed

VOICE

No, the official symbol ain't no crack pipe

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

36
318

VOICE

and no hand gun,

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

321

VOICE

ya wise guy! Better than that.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

VOICE

I'm tearin my guts out

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

VOICE

to feed my babies. *grummm* And remember somethin:

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

Sua

VOICE

YER my baby.

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

tr

8va

VOICE

Yeah YOU!

Yeah you.

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

reflective

subito p

subito p

subito p arco

subito p

336

VOICE

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Remember that when yer

trailing off

339

VOICE

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

killin something. Remember that when yer

ff

342

VOICE

drownin somewhere. Remember that when yer

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

Red.

*

345

VOICE

puttin on yer costume. Cause yer my baby.

very for real

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

(fingers overlap)

349 *(mf)* *exactly with clarinet*

VOICE $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

8 And yer hun-gri-er than ya know, ba-by, so please lem-mee feed ya. I'll rip my

B \flat Cl. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

mf 3

353 *disgusted*

VOICE $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

8 guts out to feed ya. "Ihh. That's na-sty," ya say, to which I re-

B \flat Cl. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

nasty

357 *enthusiastic* 3 *rubbing it in*

VOICE $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

8 ply "Aah aah." So how do I taste? Bet-ter than them ers - sters

B \flat Cl. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

3

362 3 3

VOICE $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

8 used to taste? Ne-ver-ya mind the blood. Ne-ver-ya mind the

B \flat Cl. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

3 3 3

366 3 3 3

VOICE $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

8 oil spill. Ne-ver-ya mind the hur-ri-cane. Ne-ver-ya mind the

B \flat Cl. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

3 3 3

370

VOICE

8

dead zone, cause I'm a-live!

B♭ Cl.

375

VOICE

8

Ne - ver mind a - ny - thing that ya think 'cep - tin me.

B♭ Cl.

378

VOICE

8

leans on the piano and strikes pose

B♭ Cl.

trailing off

Pno.

mf

384

VOICE

8

(mf) bluegrassy

Hel - lo my dar - lin' I'm feel - in' jes fine.

Pno.

390

VOICE

8

Won't - cha come and kiss me so the Loo-si - a - na moon 'll shine?

Pno.

394

VOICE

8

Throw me some trink - ets 'n' throw me some eats. Cant-cha hear me squawk-in' while I'm

Pno.

400

VOICE

8

walk-in' up and down yer streets? Ninth Ward or Up-town my squawk sounds the

Pno.

405

VOICE

8

same. Can't sing like Jo Staf-ford, if yer old e-nough to know her name.

Pno.

410 *f*

VOICE *f*
Oil spills 'n' greed spills 'n'

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Pno. *f*

414

VOICE
pov - er - ty screams. Did - ja know I love ya yon - der

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno. *sva*

418

VOICE
8 in the Land of Dream - y Dreams? We conclude with a tune

Vln. 1
f

Vln. 2
f

Vla.
f

Vlc.
f

423

VOICE
8 by Mista Bach: Oh what a won-der is the

B♭ Cl.
mf *f* impassioned

Vln. 1
mf *f* impassioned

Vln. 2
mf *f* impassioned

Vla.
mf *f* impassioned

Vlc.
mf *f* impassioned

Pno.
mf *f*

up front to audience
impassioned

427

VOICE

pel - i - can! His beak can hold more than his bel-ly can. So

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

430

VOICE

climb in and fly with me. I'll take ya where yer real - ly

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

rit.

433

VOICE
8
meant to be. Ya don't haf ta leave town ta

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

(8^{va})

436

VOICE
8
fly with me. I've paid up yer fare with my

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

VOICE
8
blood, so the price is free. Yer heart speaks. It

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

VOICE
8
makes sense, like "Un - ion, jus - tice 'n' con - fi - dence" or

B♭ Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

445

VOICE

8

"Go Saints!" I got wings. I got yer plan. I'll

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

8^{va}

448

VOICE

8

do more than a pel - i - can can, And

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

VOICE

aah aah aah aah aah aah

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

resuming walk

VOICE

aah aah and aah A - men.

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

stops & yawns & looks at watch

456

VOICE

B \flat Cl.

462

VOICE

Well pelicans hafta get up "OILY" ya know. Okay, so we used that joke already.

B \flat Cl.

465

VOICE

But all seriousness aside: set yer alarm when ya get home,

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

mp

arco

mp

arco

$\sharp\flat$

mp

arco

mp

469

VOICE

so ya can see the dawn tomorrow. Dawn ain't just fer dishes anymore,

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

473

thoughtful *tips hat* *exits*

VOICE

THIS dawn's fer me 'n' you, Bye now, say hi to yer mom 'n'em.

B \flat Cl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.