Ben Morris

for the Shepherd School of Music
Chamber Orchestra

Subterranean Ecosystem

for orchestra

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Subterranean Ecosystem
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Duration: ca. 6’00”

Instrumentation:

1 Flute
1 Piccolo
1 Oboe
1 English Horn in F
1 Clarinet in Bb
1 Bass Clarinet in Bb/Clarinet in Bb
1 Bassoon
1 Contrabassoon
2 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
1 Tenor Trombone
Percussion 1 (Drum Kit)
  Percussion 2
  Harp
Keyboard (Celeste and Piano)
  Violin I
  Violin II
  Violas
  Cellos
  Basses

Percussion 1: Drum Kit – snare, kick drum, hi-hat, crash cymbal, ride cymbal
Percussion 2: Vibraphone, marimba, bass drum, tam-tam

Percussion 1 drum kit key:

Program Notes:

Subterranean Ecosystem is heavily influenced by jazz big band music and inspired by Mathew Borrett and M.C. Escher’s drawings of imaginary underground cities. These drawings are complex and rich, full of energy and dimensionality. Capturing the density and complexity of Borrett and Escher’s drawings, Subterranean Ecosystem alternates between low, rich, and fast music – framing a parallel gesture in the low strings, winds, and brass, against a sparkling, higher texture in the percussion, high winds, and celeste. Over the course of the work, the music slows down and loses energy, as if submerging under the earth.