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LOGARITHMS OF A  
LANDSCAPE

(2025)

six short movements for string quartet

First performed by the Bergamot Quartet  
New Music on the Point, Leicester, Vermont  
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DURATION: 13 minutes

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PROGRAM NOTE

In his poem “Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror,” John Ashbery describes New York as a “logarithm of other cities.” Logarithms distill: the logarithm of 100 is just 2; the logarithm of 1000 just 3. In a way these six short, contrasted movements for string quartet are like logarithms, too. Although each one has a distinct character, under the surface there are connections between them. I think of them as distillations (logarithms) of some larger musical “landscape,” glimpsed from different vantage points. The second, third, and fifth movements are idiosyncratic dances of various kinds; the first, an intense burst of energy; the fourth, a hymn that evolves into a playful variation on the first; and the sixth, a melancholic conclusion referencing the sound of an ancient viol consort.

for the Bergamot Quartet  
**Logarithms of a Landscape**  
six short movements for string quartet

Alex Stephenson (2025)

I

Fast and intense ♩ = 132  
(don't let open strings ring)

Violin 1  
*ff* *sempre*

Violin 2  
*ff* *sempre*

Viola  
*ff* *sempre*

Violoncello  
*ff* *sempre*

10

**A**

non vib. until m. 28

*p sub.* *ff* *f* *ff*

*ff* *p sub.* *ff* *f* *ff*

*ff* *p sub.* *ff* *f* *ff*

*ff* *p sub.* *ff* *f* *ff*

17

Musical score for measures 17-24. The score is written for four staves (two treble clefs and two bass clefs) in 2/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with frequent changes in meter (2/4, 3/4, 5/8, 2/4). Dynamics are marked *ff* (fortissimo) throughout. There are accents and slurs over various notes. A large watermark 'FOR PUPILS ONLY' is visible across the score.

25

vib.

B

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score continues from the previous system. It features a section marked 'vib.' (vibrato) starting at measure 25. A section labeled 'B' begins at measure 27. The dynamics remain *ff*. The rhythmic complexity continues with various time signatures. A large watermark 'FOR PUPILS ONLY' is visible across the score.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The score is written for four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many triplets and accents. Dynamics include *f sub.*, *p*, and *f*. There are also markings for *III* and *II* above the notes. A large watermark 'FOR PERSAL ONLY' is visible across the score.

39

Musical score for measures 39-43. The score is written for four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many triplets and accents. Dynamics include *ff*, *f*, and *pizz.*. There are also markings for *arco* and *pizz.* above the notes. A large watermark 'FOR PERSAL ONLY' is visible across the score.

44

44

pizz. arco

*p* *f*

arco

*p* *f*

*ff* *ff*

*ff* *ff*

This system contains measures 44, 45, and 46. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The top two staves have a 3/4 time signature, while the bottom two have a 2/4 time signature. The music includes triplets, dynamic markings of *p* and *f*, and performance instructions for *pizz.* and *arco*. A fermata is present in the third measure of the bottom two staves.

47

C

47

*ff* furioso

*ff* furioso

furioso

furioso

This system contains measures 47, 48, 49, and 50. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The top two staves have a 2/4 time signature, while the bottom two have a 3/4 time signature. The music is marked *ff furioso* and includes triplets and a common time signature 'C' in the first measure of the top staff.

52

*ffp* ————— *ff* *f* <

59

**D**

non vib., s.t.  
*ff* *pp legato*

non vib., s.t.  
*ff* *pp legato*

non vib., s.t.  
*ff* *pp legato*

non vib. (ord. - i.e., not s.t.)  
*ff* *p legato, slightly to the fore*

ord. s.t.  
*ff* *pp*

ord. s.t.  
*ff* *pp*

ord. s.t.  
*ff* *pp*

*ff* *p*

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65

ord. 3 s.t. pp f ff

5 5 f ff p 5 5 5 f ff p 5 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 65 through 70. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is in a key with one flat and a 2/4 time signature. It includes triplets, accents, and dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, and *pp*. Performance instructions include *ord.* (order) and *s.t.* (sustained). The bottom staff has fingering numbers 5 and 5 under the first two notes of the first measure.

71

E

vib., ord. 3 non vib., s.t. pp f pp

ff messy vib., ord. 3 ff non vib., s.t. pp

ff messy vib., ord. 3 ff non vib., s.t. pp

ff messy vib., ord. 3 non vib. p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 71 through 76. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music is in a key with one flat and a 2/4 time signature. It includes triplets, accents, and dynamic markings such as *ff*, *pp*, and *f*. Performance instructions include *vib., ord.* (vibrato, order) and *non vib., s.t.* (non-vibrato, sustained). A section marker 'E' is placed above the first measure. The bottom staff has fingering numbers 3 and 3 under the first two notes of the first measure.

79

F ord.

s.t.

ff pp

ord. s.t.

pp

ord. s.t.

ff pp

p

85

ord.

s.t.

pp

f ff

ord. s.t.

pp

f ff

ord. s.t.

pp

f ff

pp

f ff p



108

ord. vib.

H

ord. vib.

ord. vib.

ord. vib. (non harmonic)

*ff*

*ffp*

*ff*

*ffp*

*ff*

115

*f*

*ff*

*p sub.*

*ff*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

*f*

*ff*



140

The musical score consists of four staves. The first three staves are in treble clef, and the fourth is in bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 to 4/4 to 6/4. The score includes dynamic markings of *ff* and *f*. Performance instructions include accents, breath marks, and the instruction "(let ring)". A "3-" marking indicates a triplet. The score is marked with measure numbers 140, 141, 142, 143, and 144.

FOR PERUSIA

# II

148 Slow and sad (Dance #1) ♩ = 88  
IV sempre until m. 164 beat 3

Violin 1  
*p* solo, *espr.*

Violin 2  
III  
*pp*

Viola  
III  
*pp*

Violoncello  
II  
*pp* (like a hiccup)

155

K

*p* *mf*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

163

Musical score for measures 163-168. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measure 163 features a 5:3 ratio and a *mf* dynamic. Measure 164 includes a *pp* dynamic and a *mf* dynamic. Measure 165 includes a *f* dynamic. Measure 166 includes a *pp* dynamic. Measure 167 includes a *pp* dynamic. Measure 168 includes a *pp* dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A large watermark 'FOR PAPER USE ONLY' is visible across the score.

169

Musical score for measures 169-174. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measure 169 features a *p* dynamic. Measure 170 includes a *f* dynamic. Measure 171 includes a *pp* dynamic. Measure 172 includes a *pp* dynamic. Measure 173 includes a *pp* dynamic. Measure 174 includes a *p* dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A large watermark 'FOR PAPER USE ONLY' is visible across the score.

176

L I non vib.

*più f pp sub.*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*mf solo, espr.*

5:3

*mf espr.*

*pp*

*p sub.*

pizz. vib.

183

non vib.

*p mf p mf p pp*

*arco non vib.*

*pp sub.*

M

189

rit.....  $\text{♩} = 66$   
vib.  
*p dolce*  
*p*

rit.....  $\text{♩} = 66$   
vib.  
*p dolce*

rit.....  $\text{♩} = 66$   
vib.  
senza cresc. (*pp*) *p dolce* *pp*

rit.....  $\text{♩} = 66$   
I  
II  
*pp sempre*

195

(tune as the 7th partial of A)

*p* *mf dolciss.* *p*

*p dolce* *pp* *p dolce*

pizz. vib.  
*p dolce*

### III

Very fast (Dance #2) ♩ = 132

202

Violin 1  
*f* sempre, con bravura  
pizz. *sf sf sf*

Violin 2  
pizz. *sf in f sf sf*  
arco *f* sempre, con bravura

Viola  
pizz. *f* sempre, con bravura  
arco *sf sf sf*

Violoncello  
arco *mf* sempre, accomp.

205

arco *f* sempre, con bravura  
pizz. *sf sf sf*

pizz. *sf*  
arco *f* sub.

pizz. *sf sf sf*

arco *f* sempre, con bravura  
ossia: one octave lower

N

208

arco  
pizz.  
sf  
arco  
pizz.  
sf  
arco  
pizz.  
sf  
arco  
pizz.  
sf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 208 through 212. It features four staves. The first staff starts with an 'arco' instruction and contains a melodic line with slurs and accents. The second staff begins with 'pizz.' and 'sf', showing a rhythmic pattern. The third staff also starts with 'pizz.' and 'sf', mirroring the second staff's pattern. The fourth staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 between measures 210 and 211.

213

arco  
pizz.  
sf  
arco  
f sub.  
pizz.  
sf  
arco  
pizz.  
sf  
ossia: one octave lower

Detailed description: This system contains measures 213 through 217. It features four staves. The first staff starts with 'arco' and contains a melodic line. The second staff begins with 'pizz.' and 'sf', followed by 'arco' and 'f sub.' in measure 215. The third staff starts with 'pizz.' and 'sf', followed by 'arco' in measure 215. The fourth staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 between measures 215 and 216. An 'ossia' instruction is present at the end of the system, indicating an alternative octave for the final measure.

O

218

arco  
pizz.  
arco  
pizz.  
arco détaché  
pizz.  
arco détaché  
pizz.  
sf  
sf  
sf  
sf  
sf  
sf  
sf  
sf  
sf in f

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 218, 219, and 220. It features four staves. The first staff (treble clef) starts with 'arco' and contains a melodic line with slurs and accents. The second staff (treble clef) starts with 'pizz.' and contains a rhythmic accompaniment. The third staff (bass clef) also starts with 'pizz.' and contains a rhythmic accompaniment. The fourth staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line. Dynamics include *sf* and *sf in f*. Performance instructions include 'arco', 'pizz.', and 'détaché'. A circled measure number '218' is at the beginning.

221

pizz.  
pizz.  
pizz.  
arco II  
fp  
ppp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 221, 222, and 223. It features four staves. The first three staves (treble, treble, and bass clefs) contain rhythmic accompaniment with 'pizz.' markings. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a melodic line with a slur and a crescendo hairpin. Dynamics include *sf*, *fp*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions include 'pizz.' and 'arco II'. A circled measure number '221' is at the beginning.

# IV

Moderately ♩ = 104  
arco  
II III

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

pp 3 5 f sparkling f (jeté) f 3 5 f

Moderately ♩ = 104  
arco  
III II

pizz. arco

Moderately ♩ = 104

Moderately ♩ = 104

228

Like a hymn (same tempo, ♩ = 104)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

f (jeté) p espr. mf pp p mf p

pizz. arco

Like a hymn (same tempo, ♩ = 104)

Like a hymn (same tempo, ♩ = 104)

Like a hymn (same tempo, ♩ = 104)

IV

234 (non harmonic) P

Musical score for measures 234-238. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The first two staves have a key signature of one flat. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *pp*. A box labeled 'P' is positioned above the first staff. The piece is marked '(non harmonic)'. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.

239

Musical score for measures 239-243. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The first two staves have a key signature of one flat. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. Dynamics include *f*, *pp*, *p*, and *mf*. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.



256

arco  
f  
pizz.  
f  
pizz.  
f  
pizz.  
p  
f  
f  
f

R

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 256 to 262. It features four staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/8 time signature, containing a series of eighth notes and a dynamic marking of *f*. The second staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The third staff is in bass clef with a 3/8 time signature, containing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p*. A box labeled 'R' is positioned above the first staff in measure 261. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

263

arco  
f  
arco  
f  
arco  
f  
ff  
ff  
ff

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 263 to 269. It features four staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing a series of eighth notes and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The second staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The third staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The bottom staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

269

pizz. *f* arco pizz. arco *p* *f*

pizz. *f* arco pizz. arco *p* *f*

pizz. *f* arco pizz. arco *p* *f*

pizz. arco pizz. arco *p* *f*

S

275

pizz. arco *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*



293

IV III  
III IV  
IV  
IV (arm. 7)

*sf sf ff pp ff*

arco

ff pp ff

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 293 to 298. It features four staves: two treble clefs, an alto clef, and a bass clef. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature changes from 3/8 to 2/4 at measure 294. The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages, often in triplet or quintuplet groupings. Dynamic markings include *sf* (sforzando), *ff* (fortissimo), and *pp* (pianissimo). Performance instructions include accents (>) and breath marks (v). A 'arco' instruction is present in the bass staff at measure 294. Above the staves, Roman numerals indicate chord changes: IV III, III IV, IV, and IV (arm. 7).

299

U

*pp ff pp ff pp ff pp ff*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 299 to 304. It features four staves: two treble clefs, an alto clef, and a bass clef. The key signature is three flats. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 at measure 300. The music continues with rapid sixteenth-note passages and triplet/quintuplet groupings. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo) and *ff* (fortissimo). Performance instructions include accents (>) and breath marks (v). A box containing the letter 'U' is placed above the first staff at measure 300.

306

*ff* *ff sempre* *ff furioso* *ff furioso* *ff furioso*

V

312

*furioso* 3 3 3 3 3 3

316

Musical score for measures 316-319. The score consists of four staves. The top staff features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with accents and dynamic markings of *ffp*. The second and third staves have rests in measures 316 and 317, followed by notes in measures 318 and 319 with accents and dynamic markings of *ff*. The bottom staff has rests in measures 316 and 317, followed by notes in measures 318 and 319 with accents and dynamic markings of *ff*.

320

Musical score for measures 320-323. The score consists of four staves. The top staff features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with accents and dynamic markings of *ffp*. The second staff has notes with accents and dynamic markings of *ff*, *sf in p*, *sf*, and *sf*, with a *pizz.* marking above the first two notes. The third and fourth staves have notes with accents and dynamic markings of *ff*. The bottom staff has notes with accents and dynamic markings of *ff*. The score concludes with a double bar line in measure 323.

324

*ffp* *pizz.* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

*sf in p* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

328

W Tempo I ♩ = 104

5 5 5 5 5 5

*sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Tempo I ♩ = 104

Tempo I ♩ = 104

Tempo I ♩ = 104

4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

333

The musical score consists of four staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature, and then a 4/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *f*, and includes a triplet of eighth notes and a quintuplet of eighth notes. The second staff is also in treble clef, starting with a dynamic of *sf*, then *pp*, and *f*. It includes a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking. The third staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing sustained chords with a dynamic of *pp*. The fourth staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing sustained notes. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.



345

X

Musical score for measures 345-348. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The top staff (treble clef) features a glissando on a whole note followed by a quarter rest, then a half note with a slur and a dynamic of *pp*, and finally a quarter note with a slur and a dynamic of *p*. The middle staff (treble clef) contains sixteenth-note triplets with a dynamic of *pp*. The bottom staff (bass clef) contains sixteenth-note triplets with a dynamic of *ppp*. A large watermark 'FOR PUBLISHED ONLY' is visible across the score.

349

Musical score for measures 349-352. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The top staff (treble clef) features a glissando on a whole note with a dynamic of *pp*, followed by a quarter rest and a half note with a slur and a dynamic of *ppp*. The middle staff (treble clef) contains sixteenth-note triplets with a dynamic of *pp*. The bottom staff (bass clef) contains sixteenth-note triplets with a dynamic of *p*. A large watermark 'FOR PUBLISHED ONLY' is visible across the score.

(join cello)  
arco  
II

*espr.*  
*mf*

354

Y

pizz. (LH ad lib. sempre)

(pizz.)

gliss.

gliss.

arco

pp senza cresc.

*pp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sf* *pp*

359

Z

pizz.

arco

pp senza cresc.

*mf* *pp* *f* *pp* *mf sf* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

364

Musical score for measures 364-367. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *mf* and *pp*. The second staff (treble clef) has a lower melodic line with dynamic markings of *mf sf* and *pp*. The third staff (treble clef) mirrors the first staff's melodic pattern. The fourth staff (bass clef) provides a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets and dynamic markings of *mf* and *pp*. A large watermark 'FOR PERSAL ONLY' is visible across the score.

369

AA

Musical score for measures 369-372. The score is in 3/8 time and consists of four staves. The first staff (treble clef) has a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *mf pp*, *f*, and *pp*. The second staff (treble clef) has a lower melodic line with dynamic markings of *mf pp*, *f mp sub.*, and *pp sub.*. The third staff (treble clef) mirrors the first staff's melodic pattern. The fourth staff (bass clef) provides a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets and dynamic markings of *pp*, *f*, and *pp*. A large watermark 'FOR PERSAL ONLY' is visible across the score.

375

(in thirds with viola)

(sixths with viola)

*p espr.*

arco

*mf*

*ppp*

pizz.

(in thirds with violin 1)

(sixths with violin 1)

*p*

*espr.*

*mf*

arco

pizz.

*p*

*ppp*

380

**BB**

gliss.

*p*

arco

pizz.

gliss.

*p*

arco

385

mf *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

gliss. gliss. gliss.

390

*p* *pp* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *ppp*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

non vib. arco non vib. arco pizz. III pizz. III



407

*mf* *p* *pp* *p* *pizz.*

*mf* *p* *pp* *p* *pizz.*

*mf* *p* *pp* *p* *pizz.*

*p*

N.B. All players, except cello material marked "solo, *espr.*," imitate the timbre of a viol throughout this movement (e.g. minimal vibrato, poco s.p. and flaut. ad lib.)

# VI

413

Very slow ♩ = 44  
arco

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

*pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

*pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

*pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

solo, *espr.*

solo, *espr.*

418

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

solo, *espr.*

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

DD

423

Musical score for measures 423-428. The score is written for four staves. The first three staves are in treble clef, and the fourth is in bass clef. The time signature changes from 4/6 to 2/4, then 4/6, 2/4, 3/4, 4/6, 2/4, 3/4, 4/6, and 2/4. The music features triplets and dynamic markings: *p*, *pp*, and *p*. The fourth staff includes the instruction *solo, espr.* and a triplet of eighth notes. A large watermark 'FOR PERSALON' is visible across the score.

429

Musical score for measures 429-434. The score is written for four staves. The first three staves are in treble clef, and the fourth is in bass clef. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/6, 2/4, 3/4, 4/6, 2/4, 3/4, 4/6, and 2/4. The music features triplets and dynamic markings: *p*, *pp*, *pp* *sempre*, and *mp*. The fourth staff includes the instruction *solo, espr.* and a triplet of eighth notes. Roman numerals III and IV are present above the second and third staves. A large watermark 'FOR PERSALON' is visible across the score.

EE

♩ = 44 (Tempo I subito)

NB please use open strings as much as possible until rehearsal FF

(bring out the moving voice)

434

ff sempre

♩ = 44 (Tempo I)

NB please use open strings as much as possible until rehearsal FF

(bring out the moving voice)

ff sempre

♩ = 44 (Tempo I)

NB please use open strings as much as possible until rehearsal FF

ff sempre

♩ = 44 (Tempo I)

NB please use open strings as much as possible until rehearsal FF

ff > pp

ff sempre

più ff

più ff

più ff

più ff

441

FF Even slower ♩ = 36

pp sub.

Even slower ♩ = 36

solo, espr.

fff

pp

pp

447

GG

*p solo, espr.*

*p* *pp*

452

gradually to molto s.p. → molto s.p. (nearly on bridge)

di - - - mi - - - nu - - - en - - - do - - - poco - - - a - - - poco - - - al - - - niente

gradually to molto s.p. → molto s.p. (nearly on bridge)

di - - - mi - - - nu - - - en - - - do - - - poco - - - a - - - poco - - - al - - - niente

gradually to molto s.p. → molto s.p. (nearly on bridge)

di - - - mi - - - nu - - - en - - - do - - - al - - - niente

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