

Mourning Moon

for String Quartet

Kitra Razin

2019

INSTRUMENTATION

2 Violins
Viola
Cello

Duration: ca. 2.25 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE

“Mourning Moon” is dedicated to my greyhound, Indy, who passed away from bone cancer on February 22, 2019.

For the first three years of his life, he raced in Tijuana, where greyhound racing is legal. He spent 22 hours per day in a cage roughly the size of a cubic yard. When my family rescued him, he was severely underweight and had had extreme hair loss. These are common symptoms of malnourishment and stress in both humans and dogs.

After a few years of love, he was at a regular weight and had grown thick, soft hair. He enjoyed many healthy years, with regular belly rubs, snacks, naps, and leisurely beach walks. Indy’s gentle nature and calming presence frequently eased any household tension.

While I was away from home at college, Indy was diagnosed with bone cancer. He was diagnosed shortly after the 2018 Mourning Moon, which is the last full moon before the shortest day of the year. Coincidentally, in the Pagan religion, the Mourning Moon is a time to grieve and mentally and physically prepare for winter.

The music reflects the range of emotions I experienced after his diagnosis. Initially, I felt deep sadness, followed by frustration because I could not be with him, and confusion because he seemed healthy during my last visit. However, his health had deteriorated greatly in only a few weeks. On the days my parents were able to convince Indy to take pain medication, he seemed more energetic, and I experienced brief hope. However, the medication was bitter and Indy often refused it. In January, I learned that Indy would die before my next visit home. This led to feelings of anger and helplessness. Eventually, I will reach the final stage of my grief: acceptance.

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Lacrimoso ♩. = 36

6

mf *f*

11

3 *p* *mp* *f* *mp*

sombre
Con sord.

17

p *mp*

21

a tempo (♩ = ♩) Senza sord.

subito p 3 *f* *mf* 2

27

mp *f* *p*

accel. *più mosso*

32

f

35

rit. *a tempo* *maestoso*

p *f* 7

44

risoluto

più f 3 *poco a poco decresc.* *p*