

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

5

10

14

17

20

mp *p* *mp* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

sombre

a tempo (♩. = ♩)

subito p

3 3

24

mp

Musical staff 24-27: Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Measures 24-27 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed below the staff at measure 27.

28

f *p*

Musical staff 28-31: Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Measures 28-31 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed below the staff at measure 28, and a dynamic marking of *p* is placed below the staff at measure 31.

32

accel. *più mosso* *rit.*

f

Musical staff 32-35: Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Measures 32-35 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed below the staff at measure 32. Tempo markings *accel.*, *più mosso*, and *rit.* are placed above the staff. The key signature changes to B-flat minor at measure 35.

36

a tempo

p *mf*

Musical staff 36-39: Bass clef, key of B-flat minor. Measures 36-39 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. A dynamic marking of *p* is placed below the staff at measure 36, and a dynamic marking of *mf* is placed below the staff at measure 37. The time signature changes to 6/8 at measure 36.

40

maestoso

f

Musical staff 40-43: Bass clef, key of B-flat minor. Measures 40-43 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed below the staff at measure 42. The tempo marking *maestoso* is placed above the staff.

44

risoluto

più f *poco a poco decresc.*

Musical staff 44-46: Bass clef, key of B-flat minor. Measures 44-46 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. A dynamic marking of *più f* is placed below the staff at measure 44, and a dynamic marking of *poco a poco decresc.* is placed below the staff at measure 45. The tempo marking *risoluto* is placed above the staff.

47

Musical staff 47-50: Bass clef, key of B-flat minor. Measures 47-50 contain eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs. The staff ends with a double bar line.