

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

mp

5

mf *f*

9

p

15

(♩ = ♩)

mp *f* *p* *sombre*

20

Con sord. *a tempo* (♩ = ♩)

mp *subito p* *f*

25 Senza sord.

mf mp

Musical staff 25-28: Treble clef, key of B-flat major (two flats). Staff 25 starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Staff 26 continues with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, mostly beamed together, with some slurs. A horizontal line with a wedge indicates a crescendo from staff 26 to staff 28.

29 accel.

f p

Musical staff 29-32: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Staff 29 starts with a forte (f) dynamic. Staff 30 continues with a piano (p) dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, mostly beamed together, with some slurs. A horizontal line with a wedge indicates a decrescendo from staff 30 to staff 32.

33 più mosso rit. a tempo

f p

Musical staff 33-36: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Staff 33 starts with a forte (f) dynamic. Staff 34 continues with a piano (p) dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, mostly beamed together, with some slurs. A horizontal line with a wedge indicates a decrescendo from staff 34 to staff 36. The tempo markings are: più mosso (staff 33), rit. (staff 34), a tempo (staff 35). The key signature changes to B-flat major (two flats) at staff 35. The time signature changes to 5/8 at staff 35. A fermata is placed over the final measure of staff 36.

41 maestoso

mf f

Musical staff 41-44: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Staff 41 starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Staff 42 continues with a forte (f) dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, mostly beamed together, with some slurs. A horizontal line with a wedge indicates a decrescendo from staff 42 to staff 44. The tempo marking is: maestoso (staff 41). The time signature changes to 9/8 at staff 43. A fermata is placed over the final measure of staff 44.

45 risoluto

più f poco a poco decresc.

Musical staff 45-47: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Staff 45 starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Staff 46 continues with a forte (f) dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, mostly beamed together, with some slurs. A horizontal line with a wedge indicates a decrescendo from staff 46 to staff 47. The tempo marking is: risoluto (staff 45). The time signature changes to 9/8 at staff 45. A fermata is placed over the final measure of staff 47.

48

Musical staff 48-50: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Staff 48 starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Staff 49 continues with a forte (f) dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, mostly beamed together, with some slurs. A horizontal line with a wedge indicates a decrescendo from staff 49 to staff 50. The time signature changes to 9/8 at staff 48. A fermata is placed over the final measure of staff 50.