

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and a path covered in fallen leaves. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

A Memory-Landscape
In Burning Watercolors
for two Violins and a Viola

Alexander Howard

Music story/meaning:

The piece is my second experiment in implementing a memory of my imaginary creation into a musical form. Since I have been very recently been fascinated with the idea of creating musical landscapes: as oblique and subjective is the manner I function. So, in approaching the idea of a piece about memory, I ultimately found myself creating long and drawn-out pallaces of the most grimy and dark, yet etherial and mystical visions I could compile and create. In also going about setting "memory" I was confronted with the definition of memory, considering that memory is itself something permeable, and something which can be morphed into an asset or into a story-creating device, which the possessor abides by. Memories are not isolated possums, but combinitive creatures, interspersing their feelings outward into other memories and thoughts.

Like a watercolor, as the title says, memories bleed into each other so that the vividness of each singular portrait melds with surrounding ones and creates a deep and wet tapestry, which is itself representative the human personality. It is therefore that the music has repeating motifs, to signify the translocomotion of colors between thoughts to form a singular "character piece". But also like a portrait, the memories themselves decay, they lose color and shimmerance in detail, whilst simultaneously creating a new more "nostalgic" shimmer, which itself is more intense than before.

Dusk on Brindlewood Valley:

This is a simple look at an evening on the fictional *Brindlewood Valley*, a locality which itself looks similar to Appalachian-Rolled Pennsylvania or even the wooded groves of rural Ohio. This itself is the fertile ground for which the color itself can take hold. This particular evening was an evening which was so beautiful, thatit seared itself into the observer's mind, and indeed infused itself, seared, into the continuum of the oberver's emotional internal life. This is the object of the struggle of this piece, since the posessor of this emotion fights to keep the memory in prominence in their mind -- almost in a fetishistic manner -- instead of letting the memory slip off into the realm of the unconcious, where the memory acts as a ghost operating amongst the flotsam of daily emotions.

Duration:

c.a. 8:40

Composed for the 2024 Emerging Composers Intensive at Hidden Valley, CA.

Performed by Tien-Hsin "Cindy" Wu, Eunice Kim, and David Samuel.

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Dusk on Brindlewood Valley:

Con passione, cantabile ♩ = 50

Violin I

p poco sul pont

Violin II

p poco sul pont

Viola

p poco sul pont

9 (nat.)

Vln.

3

3

Vln.

(nat.)

jeté

3

Vla.

(nat.)

14

Vln.

mp

poco calando

p

nat.

sul pont

f

Vln.

gliss.

mp

poco calando

p

f

Vla.

mp

poco calando

p

arco

A Agitato, "melting"

24

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

3

gliss.

3

push!

3

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

Violins (Vln.) and Viola (Vla.) score, measures 30-34. The score is in treble clef for Violins and alto clef for Viola. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4 and back to 2/4. The music features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 30, a triplet of eighth notes in measure 32, and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 33. The dynamics are marked *ff* (fortissimo) in measures 32, 33, and 34. The Viola part has a glissando in measure 33.

35

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

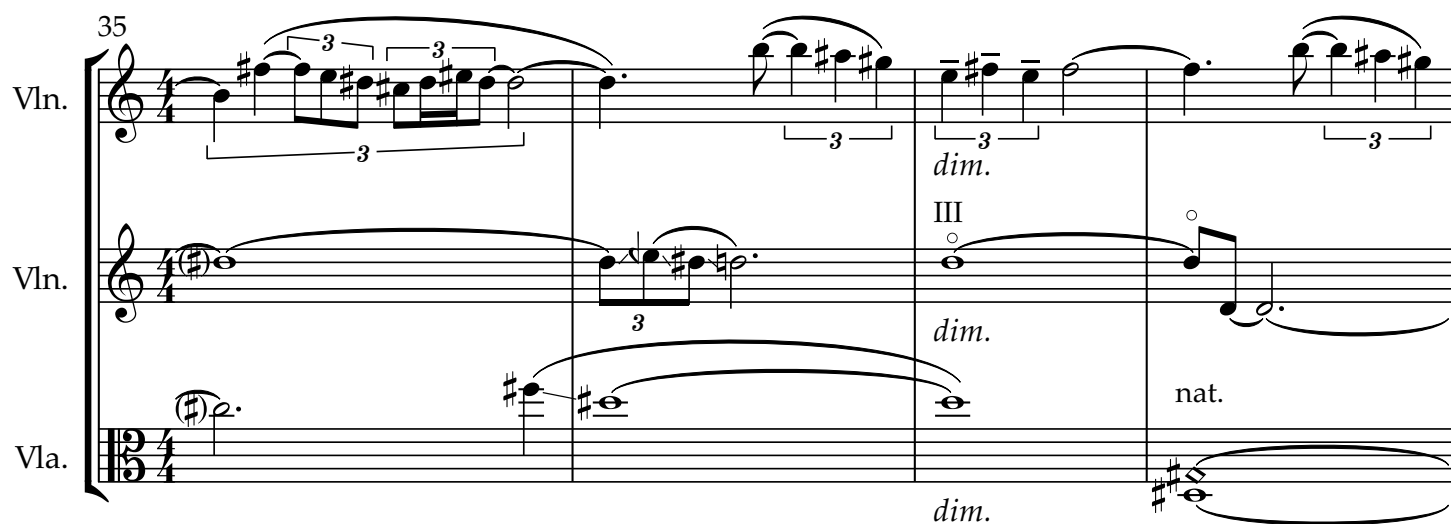
dim.

III

dim.

nat.

dim.



39

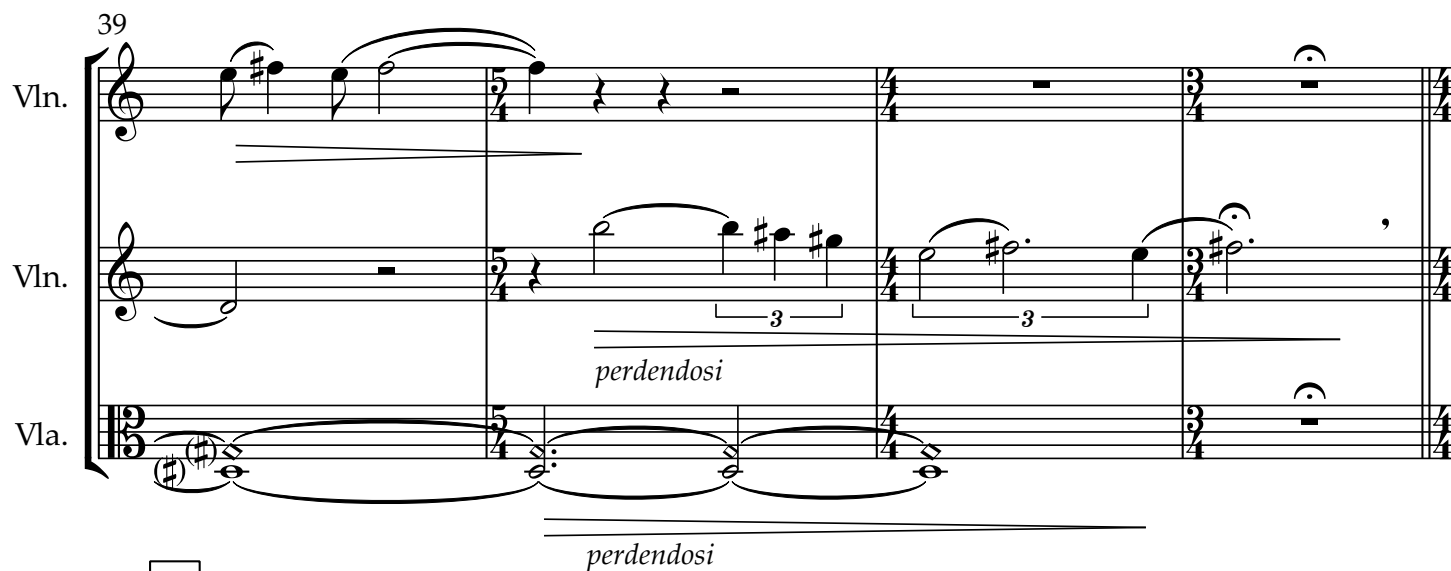
Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

perdendosi

perdendosi



B Con passione, cantabile

43 Sul IV

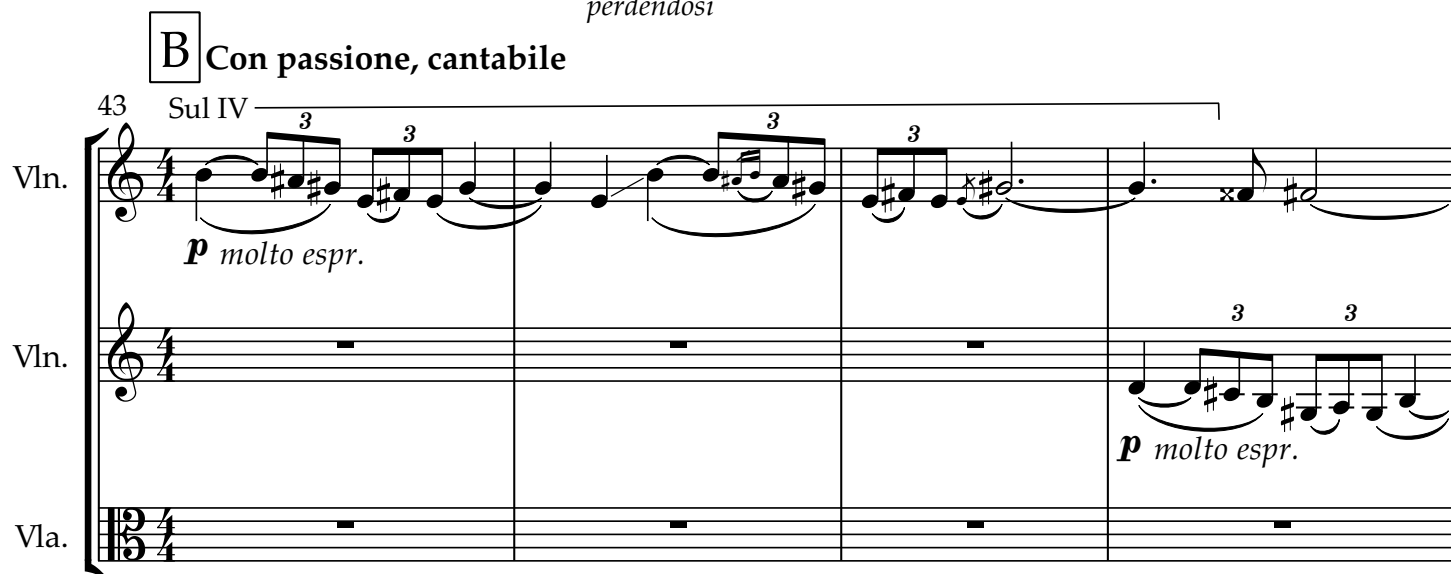
Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

p molto espr.

p molto espr.



47

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

p molto espr.

Measures 47-50. Violin I and II play melodic lines with triplets. Viola plays a supporting line with triplets. The tempo is marked *p molto espr.*

51

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Measures 51-55. Violin I and II play melodic lines. Viola plays a supporting line with triplets. The tempo is marked *p molto espr.*

56

Stringendo

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

mf

mf

mf

Measures 56-60. Violin I and II play melodic lines with triplets. Viola plays a supporting line with triplets. The tempo is marked **Stringendo** and the dynamics are marked *mf*.

Perdendosi

rall.

59

Vln. *3 3 3 5*

Vln. *3 5 3*

Vla. *3 gliss. gliss.*

C Più mosso ♩ = 66

solo, rubato

62

Vln. *5 3*

Vln. *gliss. gliss.*

Vla. *6*

ppp
(don't emphasize with the bow)

ppp
(don't emphasize beats with the bow)

ppp

67

Vln. *3 3 3 cresc. 5 3*

Vln. *poco cresc. 3 3*

Vla. *poco cresc.*

accel.

71

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

5

3

3

3

74

Precipitando ♩ = 72

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

3

3

3

7

f

f

f

tr

77

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

3

3

3

3

3

3

sfpp

as fast as possible, in this pattern

sfpp (aeolian rustle)

sfpp (ominous rumble)

81

Vln. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Measures 81-83. Violin I and II play melodic lines with triplets and slurs. Viola plays a rhythmic pattern with triplets and a quintuplet. Dynamics are marked *f*.

84

Vln. *ff deciso*

Vln. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Measures 84-86. Violin I and II play melodic lines with slurs. Viola plays a rhythmic pattern with triplets. Dynamics are marked *ff* and *ff deciso*.

87

Vln. *fff*

Vln. *fff*

Vla. *fff*

D

Measures 87-90. Violin I and II play melodic lines with slurs. Viola plays a rhythmic pattern with triplets. Dynamics are marked *fff*. A box labeled **D** is above measure 87.

Ad lib, arioso

accel.

91

Vln. *fff* Asynchronously ³ ³ ³

Vln. *fff* Asynchronously ³ ³ *gliss.*

Vla. *fff* Asynchronously ³ *gliss.*
Gliss between strings

A tempo, placido

92

Vln. *p* *fp*

Vln. *p* *fp* *mf*

Vla. Heard: (*p*) Played: *fp* *p*

102

Vln. *f* *p* *mf* *p* calmly, somewhat hollow

Vln. *f* *p* *mf*

Vla. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

gliss. (flag.)

E **Meno mosso**

109

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

p

3

3

(D)

tr 9

114

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

(I)

5

3

116

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

gliss.

6

3

7

5

gliss.

quasi-gliss

mp = molto sul tasto =

mp = molto sul tasto =

mp = molto sul-tasto

119

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

gliss.

p molto sentimentale

3

3

3

121

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

p

p