
Nikhil Murali

Dusk

For Strings and Piano

PREVIEW ONLY

Instrumentation:

Violin I (6)
Violin II (6)
Viola (6)
Violoncello (5)
Contrabass (2)
Piano (1)

Composer's Notes:

By 7th grade, I had only played cello for a little under a year. With each new aspect of music I was introduced to, from the role of the conductor in guiding the orchestra's musicality to simply playing within an ensemble, my fascination continued to grow. Then I discovered the joy of composing.

After discovering my friend Adrian Sisso didn't just play music but wrote his own, I became obsessed with doing the same. Over the next few years, I started and failed at several projects, including a series of 3 movements for strings and piano, each respectively titled Dawn, Dusk, and Midnight. Of the three, Dusk remains the only one that has been completed.

As the first piece I've written, Dusk will always hold a special place in my heart. Though I wrote the piece in 7th grade, I rewrote it two years later for its premiere at the Seven Lakes High School Spring Concert in May of 2021. Dusk is a piece about transition, attempting to convey the subtle eagerness one has for moving on to a new chapter of life with the unspoken weight of leaving the old one behind.

There may not be a true narrative in the piece, but it nonetheless connects with its audience through a universal emotional core. Dusk is the setting sun, serving as both a promise and reminder of the inevitable passage of time and the memories made along that incredible journey. Written from the perspective of a child growing up, this piece speaks to the complex and overwhelming emotions that come with experiencing change after change brought about by life. Yet, the final note lingers, a reminder that though a new morning will arrive, the memories will always remain.

Program note by Nikhil Murali and Sofia Briceño

Duration ca. 5'

Dusk

Conductor's Score

Nikhil Murali

Elegantly ♩ = 55

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

Piano

pp

5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

poco accel.

p

Pno.

PREVIEW

