

PROGRAM NOTES

Co-commissioned by the Delgani, Arneis and Quartet Nouveau String Quartets, my ***String Quartet No. 7*** is subtitled *A Thousand Cranes*. The title was inspired by conversations with Kimberlee Uwate, violist of the Delgani Quartet. During World War II the American government forced Kimberlee's family, who are of Japanese descent, to move to an internment camp. This story evoked memories of my own father's experience escaping Nazi Germany when the US entered WWII. My ***String Quartet No. 7*** explores the experiences and resiliency of children of war. Kimberlee directed me to a lovely children's book she had read, *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow*, by Amy Lee-Tai, which begins with a young girl playing on a swing in her back yard, then depicts her experience in an internment camp. I also spent hours on swings as a child, and this string quartet begins with that: two minutes of swinging, the joy of movement and moments where the rhythm is made precarious from swinging too high. After this, there are mini "movements" (all played without pause), beginning with a sense of foreboding and moving to sorrow, expressed in lyrical mini cadenzas by each instrument (who I think of as mother, father, sister, and brother). Then trouble sets in, offset by a slower sense of sadness. Finally, the piece ends where it began: on a swing set, perhaps returned home, but now that pure joy is altered with a sense of change and growth.

—Elena Ruehr

Duration: 12:00

Also available

Four Pieces for String Quartet (String Quartet No. 1)	8483
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Song of the Silkie (String Quartet No. 2) Piano/Vocal Rehearsal Score	8484A
String Quartet No. 3	8485
String Quartet No. 4	8486
String Quartet No. 5 (<i>Bel Canto</i>)	8487
String Quartet No. 6	8488

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Commissioned by the Delgani String Quartet, the Arneis Quartet, and Quartet Nouveau

String Quartet No. 7

A Thousand Cranes

Elena Ruehr (BMI)

Presto ♩ = 104

Violin I *f joyously*

Violin II *f joyously*

Viola *f joyously*

Violoncello *f joyously* *like a drum* *p sub.*

5

p sub.

p sub.

9

p

p

p

20

23

f *ff*

23

f *ff*

26

p *mp*

39

ff

ff

ff

ff

44

sfz

fff

sfz

fff

sfz

fff

sfz

fff

49

f joyously

f joyously

54

mp joyously

mp joyously

mp

56

59

This musical score page contains measures 54 through 59. It is written for piano (p), violin (v), and cello (c). The tempo and mood are marked 'mp joyously'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 at measure 56 and remains 3/4 through measure 59. The piano part features a melodic line with slurs and ties. The violin and cello parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Review is illegal copy' is overlaid across the entire page.

62

mf

mf

mf

65

f

f

f

68

4/4

4/4

4/4

4/4

70

ff *p*

73

mp *mf*

76

This musical score consists of three systems of staves, each containing four staves (two treble and two bass). The first system (measures 70-71) starts in 4/4 time with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and changes to 3/4 time with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system (measures 72-74) continues in 3/4 time with mezzo-piano (*mp*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics. The third system (measures 75-76) continues in 3/4 time. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs, along with dynamic markings and a large diagonal watermark reading 'Copyright is illegal only'.

79

f energetically

f energetically

f energetically

f energetically

83

f energetically

f energetically

f energetically

f energetically

87

ff

ff

ff

ff

91

f

96

f *ff* *fff*

100

p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

This musical score consists of four systems of four staves each. The first system (measures 91-95) is in 6/8, 2/4, 6/8, and 3/4 time signatures, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system (measures 96-99) shows a progression of chords with dynamics increasing from f to ff to fff. The third system (measure 100) shows a melodic line with a piano (p) to mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic range.

102

Measures 102-103 of a musical score. The score is written for four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first staff (top treble) starts with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a crescendo to *f* and then a further crescendo to *ff*. The second staff (top treble) also starts with *mf*, followed by *f*. The third staff (bottom treble) starts with *mf* and then *f*. The fourth staff (bottom bass) starts with *mf* and then *f*. The music features rapid sixteenth-note passages in the upper staves and more rhythmic, eighth-note patterns in the lower staves.

104

Measures 104-106 of a musical score. The score is written for four staves. The first three staves (two treble and one bass) feature rapid sixteenth-note passages. The first staff (top treble) starts with *ff*. The second staff (top treble) also starts with *ff*. The third staff (bottom treble) starts with *ff*. The fourth staff (bottom bass) starts with *ff*. The music transitions from rapid sixteenth-note passages to sustained notes in measures 105 and 106, with a *f* dynamic marking.

107

Measures 107-110 of a musical score. The score is written for four staves. The first three staves (two treble and one bass) feature sustained notes. The first staff (top treble) starts with a *p* dynamic. The second staff (top treble) also starts with *p*. The third staff (bottom treble) starts with *p*. The fourth staff (bottom bass) starts with a *troubled* marking, followed by a *mf* dynamic. The music transitions from sustained notes to rhythmic eighth-note patterns in measure 108, and then back to sustained notes in measures 109 and 110.