

NICKY SOHN

LULLABY FOR THOSE FAST ASLEEP

FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO

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(2020)

Instrumentation

Violin

Piano

Duration - ca. 7 minutes

COVID-19 has changed everything. The most fundamental aspects of humans, naturally social beings, have been stripped from us. Visiting friends and family has become a challenge for many, and for me and many individuals who live, study, or work in a foreign country, the idea of returning home has become even more distant and unreachable.

“Lullaby for Those Fast Asleep” was co-commissioned by Lucia Lin and the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music with Additional Support from Ronald Chase and Bard Music West. Lucia and I had a conversation before I began writing. We had discussed the widening division between people around the world, whether it be racial divide as shown throughout America, or the physical and political divide of nations and peoples made from the recession of international trade, talk, and travel. In this era of distancing, a warm place that we can call “home” is narrowing.

This piece is based on a Korean lullaby called “The Baby on an Island”. It tells the story of a baby all alone at night while its mother picks oysters by the shore. In place of its mother’s voice, the ocean sings and the baby falls asleep waiting for her return. Although the story does not mention this, I’ve always thought about how the ocean continues singing, even after the baby is fast asleep. With “Lullaby for Those Fast Asleep”, I wanted to be the ocean that keeps singing, even after the ones who have waited for the world to heal can no longer listen.

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and the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music
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Lullaby for Those Fast Asleep

Nicky Sohn

♩ = 69

Violin

Piano

pp

5

p

10

rit. *a tempo*

p *espress.*

pp *leggiero*

14

Musical score for measures 14-16. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 14 is in 4/4 time, measure 15 is in 3/4 time, and measure 16 is in 4/4 time. The melody in the top staff features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 14, a triplet of eighth notes in measure 15, and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 16. The dynamic marking *pp* is placed below the top staff in measure 15. The grand staff contains arpeggiated chords in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. A *8va* marking is present above the right hand in measure 15.

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 17 is in 4/4 time, measure 18 is in 2/4 time, measure 19 is in 3/4 time, and measure 20 is in 3/4 time. The melody in the top staff starts with a *p* dynamic in measure 17, increases to *f* in measure 18, and returns to *p* in measure 19. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 19. The grand staff contains arpeggiated chords in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. A *8va* marking is present above the right hand in measure 17. A *f p* dynamic marking is placed below the right hand in measure 18.

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 21 is in 4/4 time, measure 22 is in 4/4 time, measure 23 is in 3/4 time, and measure 24 is in 3/4 time. The melody in the top staff starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 21, decreases to *p* in measure 22, and features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 24. The grand staff contains arpeggiated chords in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. A *f* dynamic marking is placed below the right hand in measure 21. A *f* dynamic marking is placed below the right hand in measure 23.