

It's strange about stars...

for viola quartet

Melissa Dunphy
based on a text by Lola Ridge

3 min

2014

for all the survivors

It's strange about stars ...
You have to be still when they look at you.
They push your song inside of you with their song.
Their long silvery rays
sink into you and do not hurt.
It is good to feel them resting on you
like great white birds...
and their shining whiteness
doesn't burn like the sun —
it washes all over you
and makes you feel cleaner'n water.

—From *Sun-Up [IV. Betty]* by Lola Ridge (1920)



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Adagio ♩ = 60

Musical score for four violas (Viola 1, Viola 2, Viola 3, Viola 4) in 3/4 time, measures 1-5. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is Adagio, with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *f* (forte). The score includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for four violas (Vla. 1, Vla. 2, Vla. 3, Vla. 4) in 3/4 time, measures 6-9. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is Adagio, with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamics range from *sub p* (sub-piano) to *f* (forte). The score includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

11

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

mf < *f* *mp*

mf < *f* *mp*

mf < *f* *mp*

mf < *f* *mp*

3

3

3

3

17

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

f

f

f

f

22

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*

28 4

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

ff *sempre ff* *ff* *ff*

34

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

39

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

Viola 1

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Adagio ♩ = 60

pp p f

sub p p f

mf f mp 3

f

f mp

ff sempre ff

p mp

p mp

Viola 2

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Adagio ♩ = 60

pp *p* *mf* *f*

6 *sub p* *p* *f*

12 *mf* *f* *mp* 3

17 *f*

22 *f* *mp*

27 *ff* *sempre ff*

33 *p*

38 *mp*

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Adagio ♩ = 60

1-5

pp p f

Musical staff 1-5: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 1-5. Dynamics: pp (measures 1-2), p (measures 3-4), f (measure 5). Slurs and accents are present.

6-11

sub p p f

Musical staff 6-11: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 6-11. Dynamics: sub p (measure 6), p (measures 7-8), f (measures 9-11). Slurs and accents are present.

12-16

mf f mp 3

Musical staff 12-16: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 12-16. Dynamics: mf (measures 12-13), f (measures 14-15), mp (measure 16). A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 16.

17-21

f

Musical staff 17-21: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 17-21. Dynamics: f (measures 17-21). Slurs and accents are present.

22-26

f mp

Musical staff 22-26: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 22-26. Dynamics: f (measures 22-25), mp (measure 26). Slurs and accents are present.

27-32

ff ff

Musical staff 27-32: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 27-32. Dynamics: ff (measures 27-30), ff (measures 31-32). Slurs and accents are present.

33-37

p

Musical staff 33-37: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 33-37. Dynamics: p (measures 33-37). Slurs and accents are present.

38-42

mp

Musical staff 38-42: Treble clef, 12/8 time signature. Measures 38-42. Dynamics: mp (measures 38-42). Slurs and accents are present.

Viola 4

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pp p f sub p

7

p f

12

mf f mp

18

f f

24

mp ff

30

ff

36

p mp

40

mp