

Mare Tranquillitatis

Roger Zare

Commissioned by Jeffrey Bishop and the
Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Orchestra
Summer, 2007

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In Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquility), I sought to create a tightly cohesive and moving work. Upon close inspection, one finds that all the musical material is derived from only two ideas - the descending fourth heard in the opening bar, which is later inverted in the cello line at bar seven; and the flowing melody heard for the first time in the violas at measure 22, which borrows some motives from the aforementioned cello line.

The piece also gives an opportunity to the leaders of each section besides the basses to play in a solo quartet, juxtaposing lush tutti with delicate and intimate passages.

The emotional arc of the piece culminates in the return of the second theme, the viola melody, at measure 70. It grows and transforms into a sweeping gesture, bringing closure to the pent up tension from before. What follows is an epilogue, and the piece ends with one final tender moment with the solos.

Duration c.a. 5'

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Mare Tranquillitatis

3
Roger Zare
(ASCAP)

Lento ♩ = 66

Violin I: *ppp*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*. Includes *div.* markings.

Violin II: *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*. Includes *pensive*, *div.*, and *unis.* markings.

Viola: *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*. Includes *pensive*, *div.*, and *unis.* markings.

Violoncello: *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*. Includes *pensive*, *div.*, and *unis. pizz.* markings.

Double Bass: *mf*, *pp*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vln. I: *p*, *f*, *p*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vln. II: *p*, *f*, *p*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vla.: *p*, *f*, *p*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vc.: *p*, *f*, *p*. Includes *arco* and *div.* markings.

Db.: *p*, *f*, *p*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vln. I: *mp*, *pp*, *mp*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vln. II: *pp*, *mp*, *pp*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vla.: *pp*, *mp*, *pp*. Includes *div.* markings.

Vc.: *pp*, *mp*, *pp*. Includes *div.* markings.

Db.: *pp*, *mp*, *pp*. Includes *div.* markings.

B

19

Vln. I *mf* 3 *sostenuto* *pp* *sostenuto*

Vln. II *mf* *pp* *sostenuto*

Vla. *mf* *p* *espress.*

Vc. *mf* 3 *sostenuto* *pp* *sostenuto* *div.*

Db. *pp* *sostenuto*

p *pp*

24

Vln. I *p* *mp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *espress. mf*

Vln. II *mp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *espress.*

Vc. *mp* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

Db. *mp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

mp *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

29

C

Vln. I *non div. Vagitato* *f* *dim.* *dim.* 3

Vln. II *non div. Vagitato* *f* *dim.* *dim.*

Vla. *agitato* *f* *dim.* 3 *dim.*

Vc. *agitato* *f* 3 3 *dim.* *dim.*

Db. *agitato* *f* *dim.* *dim.*