

Roger Zare

Starry Night

for string orchestra with optional harp



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Taking its name from Vincent van Gogh's famous painting, this nocturne for string orchestra features sweeping melodies and lush, expansive harmonies. Throughout the piece, an almost incessant pulsation pervades, its *louré* bowings an analogue to van Gogh's repetitive brush strokes which create his mesmerizing work. Surrounding this pulsation is a yearning, haunting melody that is passed around the orchestra. This work alternates between capturing the still tranquillity of the night and the infinite depth and beauty of the night sky. As the work proceeds, the each iteration of the haunting melody builds upon itself further and further until one final passionate outburst. Spent, it fades back into darkness, resolving pent up harmonic tension only in the final chord.

Scored for string orchestra with optional harp.

Duration: ca. 5'

Grade: 3.5

About the composer:

Roger Zare has been praised for his "enviable grasp of orchestration" (New York Times) and for writing music with "formal clarity and an alluringly mercurial surface." He was born in Sarasota, FL, and has written for a wide variety of ensembles, from solo instruments to full orchestra. Often inspired by science, mathematics, literature, and mythology, his colorfully descriptive and energetic works have been performed across the United States and on five continents. Zare's music is published by Theodore Presser, FJH Music, Manhattan Beach Music, and his own publishing company, Roger Zare Music. Also an active pianist and violinist, Zare holds degrees in music composition from the University of Michigan, Peabody Conservatory, and the University of Southern California.

For more information on this work or the composer, please visit
www.rogerzare.com

Starry Night

Roger Zare
(b. 1985)

Gentle ♩ = 66

Harp (optional)
p ++|+++

Violin I
p dolce

Violin II
p *transparent*

Viola
p *transparent*

Violoncello
p *transparent*

Double Bass
p

6

A

pp B \flat

A *p sostenuto*

p dolce

p *sostenuto*

p *div.*

pp *p*

11

Musical score for measures 11-15. The score is written for piano and violin. Measure 11 starts with a piano dynamic (*f*). In measure 12, the piano part changes to *pp* and then *p*. The violin part has a dynamic of *f*. In measure 13, the piano part changes to *mp subito*. The violin part has a dynamic of *f*. In measure 14, the piano part has a dynamic of *mp subito*. The violin part has a dynamic of *f*. In measure 15, the piano part has a dynamic of *f*. The violin part has a dynamic of *f*. Performance instructions include "div. transparent" and "unis.".

16

Musical score for measures 16-20. The score is written for piano and violin. Measure 16 starts with a piano dynamic (*pp*). In measure 17, the piano part has a dynamic of *pp*. The violin part has a dynamic of *p*. In measure 18, the piano part has a dynamic of *pp*. The violin part has a dynamic of *p*. In measure 19, the piano part has a dynamic of *mp*. The violin part has a dynamic of *mp*. In measure 20, the piano part has a dynamic of *mp*. The violin part has a dynamic of *mp*. Section markers "B" are present. Performance instructions include "+++++".

21

Musical score for measures 21-25. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with multiple staves. The right hand of the piano plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include *div.* (divisi) and *unis.* (unison). A watermark "Perusal Score" is visible across the page.

26

Musical score for measures 26-30. The score continues with the piano accompaniment. The right hand features a more active melodic line with slurs and accents. The left hand maintains a steady accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A *C* (Crescendo) marking is present above the first staff. A watermark "Perusal Score" is visible across the page.

30

Musical score for measures 30-34. The score is written for piano and includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. Chord symbols C# and F# are present. The bass line includes a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction. A large watermark 'Perusal Score' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

35

Musical score for measures 35-39. The score is written for piano and includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mp*. Performance markings include *div.* (divisi), *unis.* (unison), and fingerings (4, 3, 4). A large watermark 'Perusal Score' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

40 **D**

pp

2/4 4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

pp

2/4 4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

D

transparent

pp

transparent

pp

mf dolce

mf dolce

arco

mf dolce

div.

V

V

V

V

V

45

F#

mp

f

2/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

mp

f

mp

f

f

f

mp

f

E

49

Piano introduction for section E, measures 49-53. The right hand has a whole rest, and the left hand has a whole rest. At measure 53, there is a fermata over a chord of F#4 and C5, followed by a dynamic marking of *mf*.

E

Musical score for section E, measures 54-58. The score is for five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is *pp sub.* (pianissimo, *subito*). The first measure is marked *pp sub.* and *unis.* (unison). The second measure is marked *pp sub.* and *div.* (divisi). The dynamic marking changes to *mf* (mezzo-forte) at the end of the section. A large watermark "Perusal Score" is visible across the page.

54

F Grandioso

Piano introduction for section F, measures 54-58. The right hand has a whole rest, and the left hand has a whole rest. At measure 54, there is a fermata over a chord of F#4 and C5, followed by a dynamic marking of *f*. At measure 58, there is a fermata over a chord of F#4 and C5, followed by a dynamic marking of *ff*.

F Grandioso

Musical score for section F, measures 59-63. The score is for five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is *f* (forte). The first measure is marked *f* and *unis.* (unison). The second measure is marked *f*. The dynamic marking changes to *ff* (fortissimo) at the end of the section. A large watermark "Perusal Score" is visible across the page.

59

ff
molto sostenuto

ff
molto sostenuto

ff
molto sostenuto
unis.

ff
molto sostenuto

ff

63

ff *p*

ff *p*

ff *p*

ff *p*

ff *p*

Musical score for measures 68-71. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The vocal line is in the treble clef. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, *p dolce*, and *pizz.*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the piano part. The vocal line includes a *div.* marking.

Musical score for measures 72-75. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The vocal line is in the treble clef. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, and *mp*. A *rit.* marking is present over measures 73-74. A *arco* marking is present in the bass clef of the piano part in measure 75.