

Gwyneth Walker

Sounds and Colors

for String Quartet

“Shades of Blue”

“Green in Happening”

“Bright Yellow and Yellow Dots”

“Red to Crimson to Silver”

“Many Colors”

Program Notes:

The aural experience of listening to music is often matched by visual associations. Listeners *see* landscapes, movement and colors. It is this last connection which has inspired the creation of **Sounds and Colors**.

The composer has selected colors, or color groups, as the theme for each movement. Perhaps colorful slides will be displayed during the performance. Or perhaps the musical/color association will be left to the listeners' imagination!

"Shades of Blue" opens with *sky blue*, reaching up to the sky. This is followed by *deep ocean blue*, the *blues*, *royal blue* and, as a casual ending, *blue jeans*!

"Green is Happening" associates the color green with Spring, with *buds opening*, a *fullness of sound* (blurred patterns), *playful, light touches*, and *flowers popping up*.

"Bright Yellow and Yellow Dots" is *cheerful and sunny*, opening with *sunbursts*. Little *dots* fill the middle section. Joy returns, leading to a final *sunburst*.

"Red to Crimson to Silver" focuses on the warmth of the color red. The notes *huddle* together. They rise with the warmth of the heart to a *jubilant, bright red*. The music grows in intensity to a *crimson* strength, then a softer *silver* fading to a *pure white silence*.

While creating this quartet for players in Orlando, FL, the composer has kept strongly in mind the tragic shooting on June 12, 2016. The community responded with rallies, displaying rainbow-colored banners and posters in support and unity. The composer has created "Many Colors" within this spirit of *together-with-diversity*.

The music opens in unison, and then spreads out to include many notes (i.e., *many colors*), rising to a triumphant statement of the theme. The notes then converge to a unison ending. The listener may hear the rhythms of the following phrase *spoken* by the instruments at beginning and end:

*We are of many colors – the rainbow 'neath the sun.
All that we hope and all that we ask is to live together as one.*

Sounds and Colors

for String Quartet

Gwyneth Walker

1. Shades of Blue

**Slowly, as an introduction
as if reaching for the sky**

2

13 A “sky blue”

Vln. 1 joyfully

Vln. 2 joyfully

Vla. joyfully

Vlc. joyfully

16

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

jagged, with interruptions

19

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

(a tempo)

(a tempo)

(a tempo)

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *mp*

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

mf

mf

arco

mf

"sky and water"

B Same tempo ($\text{♩} = 92$)

28

Vln. 1

gently flowing 3 3 3

Vln. 2

p

rolled pizz.

Vla.

p

rolled pizz.

Vlc.

p

arco

arco

31

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

mf

Vla.

Vlc.

p

3 3 3 3

rolled pizz.

34

Vln. 1

mf 3 3 3

Vln. 2

3

Vla.

mf

arco

Vlc.

mf

37

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

43

C

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

47

Vln. 1 pizz. *p* arco *f* rit.

Vln. 2 pizz. *p* arco *f*

Vla. pizz. *p* arco *f*

Vlc. pizz. *p* arco *f*

Slower $\text{d} = 66$
50 as a "tango on the ocean floor"

Vln. 1 $\frac{3}{2}$

Vln. 2 $\frac{3}{2}$

Vla. $\frac{3}{2}$

Vlc. $\frac{3}{2}$

(tremolo,
descending gliss.)

D 54 "deep blue - the bottom of the sea"

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

58

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

(long trem. gliss.)

glissando

62 "the blues"

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

66

E "very blue"

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

70

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

74

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

77

rit.

Vln. 1

mf

slow glissando
to end of string

p

Vln. 2

mf

slow glissando
to end of string

p

Vla.

mf

slow glissando
to end of string

p

Vlc.

p

[change of mood and color: "royal blue"]

Quickly $\text{d} = 112$
in an important "regal manner"

This musical score page features four staves for string instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature changes from A major (no sharps or flats) to B major (one sharp). The time signature changes from common time to 4/4. The dynamics transition from a medium dynamic (mf) through a piano dynamic (p) to a forte dynamic (f). The first section, labeled 'rit.', consists of eighth-note patterns with slurs and 'v' markings. The second section, labeled 'Quickly', consists of sixteenth-note patterns with 'v' markings. The score includes three types of performance instructions: dynamic markings (mf, p, f), tempo markings (rit., Quickly d=112), and articulation markings (slurs, 'v', and 'p').

Musical score for strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc.) in 2/4 time, key of F major. Measure 81: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with accents. Vla. and Vlc. play sixteenth-note patterns with accents. Measure 82: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with accents. Vla. and Vlc. play sixteenth-note patterns with accents. Dynamics: *f* in measure 81, *f* in measure 82. Performance instruction: "F ‘royal blue!’" in a box.

84

This image shows a musical score for four string instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Cello (Vcl.), and Double Bass (Vla.). The score is in common time, with a key signature of two sharps. Measure 84 consists of three measures of music. In the first measure, Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace marks above them. Vcl. and Vla. provide harmonic support with sustained notes. In the second measure, the patterns continue with some eighth-note pairs having grace marks above them. In the third measure, the patterns conclude with eighth-note pairs having grace marks above them.

87

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

"sky blue" (as at A)

90

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

G Quickly, with energy (Same tempo)

(quick trem. gliss.)

93

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

gliss. (—)

mf

96

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

"blue jeans!"
(in an off-handed manner)

(very high, trem.)

p

2. Green is Happening

"to suggest the arrival of Spring, with buds opening"

*start slowly and accel. into a blur
(change bow slowly)*

Vln. 1 ***pp* gently**

Vln. 2 [enter appx. 4" after Vln. 1]
start slowly and accel. into a blur (change bow slowly)

Vla. ***pp* gently**

Vlc. [enter appx. 4" after Vla.]
start slowly and accel. into a blur (change bow slowly)

***pp* gently**

Slowly $\text{♩} = 96$

Vln. 1 ca. 4'

Vln. 2 ca. 4'

Vla. ca. 4'

Vlc. ca. 4'

rolled pizz.

Vln. 1 ***p***

Vln. 2 ***p***

Vla. ***p***

Vlc. ***p***

rolled pizz.

12 12 12 12

11 [A] Faster $\text{♩.} = 108$

Vln. 1 **12**

Vln. 2 **12**

Vla. **12**

Vlc. **12**

arco

pp

quickly, unmeasured, blurred

arco

p

10

"as the full beauty of Spring green-ness"

15 *arco*

Vln. 1 *mf cantabile*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

quickly, unmeasured, blurred

pp

19

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *arco* *mf cantabile*

Vla.

Vlc. *(p)*

quickly, unmeasured, blurred

pp

23 [B]

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

mf

27

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

31 C

(buds opening)

(buds opening)

(mf)

(mf)

35

(buds opening)

39 D

p

mf

p

mf

43

(mf)

47 [E] Quietly

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

51

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

55 [F]

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

59 Slowly playfully

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

63 G *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

Vln. 1 *ord.*
Vln. 2 *p* 2
Vla. *pp*
Vlc. *pp*

Vln. 1 -
Vln. 2 -
Vla. *arco*
Vlc. *pp*

66
Vln. 1 -
Vln. 2 *p* 2
Vla. *ord.*
Vlc. -

Vln. 1 -
Vln. 2 -
Vla. -
Vlc. -

69
Vln. 1 *p*
Vln. 2 -
Vla. *rolled pizz.*
Vlc. -

Vln. 1 -
Vln. 2 2
Vla. *mf*
Vlc. -

Vln. 1 -
Vln. 2 2
Vla. *p* *arco*
Vlc. *mf*

72
Vln. 1 *p*
Vln. 2 -
Vla. *rolled pizz.*
Vlc. *p*

Vln. 1 -
Vln. 2 2
Vla. *mf*
Vlc. -

75

[H]

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *p* *arco*

Vla.

Vlc. *mf* *p*

78

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *mf*

81

rit. to end

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*start slowly and
accel. into a blur ca. 6'*
pp
*start slowly and
accel. into a blur ca. 6'*
pp
*start slowly and
accel. into a blur ca. 6'*
pp
*start slowly and
accel. into a blur ca. 6'*
pp

3:10

3. Bright Yellow and Yellow Dots

"sunbursts"

Slowly, as an introduction

With energy $\text{♩} = 108$

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

f *f* *f* *f*

p — *f* *p* — *f* *p* — *f* *p* — *f* *p*

pizz. *pizz.*

joyful

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

p *p* *p*

joyful *joyful* *arco, joyful*

10

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

f *f* *f* *f*

arco

13 A "very cheerful and sunny"

Vln. 1
(f)

Vln. 2
(f)

Vla.

Vlc.

p f

p f

p f

p f

16

Vln. 1
p f p

Vln. 2
p f p

Vla.
p f p

Vlc.
p f p

19

B delicately

Vln. 1
f p f p

Vln. 2
f p f p

Vla.
f p f p

Vlc.
f p f p

22

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

v v

25

Vln. 1 *cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. 2 *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *cresc. poco a poco*

Vlc. *cresc. poco a poco*

[C]

28

Vln. 1 *(cresc.)* *f*

Vln. 2 *(cresc.)* *f*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *f*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *f*

31

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

34

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pizz.
p
pizz.
p
p

rit.

D Slowly, free tempo
arco, as "yellow dots"

accel.

rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

rolled pizz.
(p)
rolled pizz.
(p)

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

accel.
(p)
arco, as "yellow dots"
(p)

rit.

accel.
(p)
arco, as "yellow dots"
(p)

rit.

Start slowly and accel.

43

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Slowly
rit.
arco, as "yellow dots"
p

(p)
(p)

"very cheerful and sunny"

19

46 (accel.) E *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 108$)

54 *final sunburst*

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

4. Red to Crimson to Silver

warmth of red

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

7 rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Slower

A a tempo ($\text{♩} = 108$)
especially warm

Musical score for strings section 12. The score consists of four staves: Vln. 1 (Violin 1), Vln. 2 (Violin 2), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Cello). The key signature is A major (three sharps). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'C'). The music begins with a dynamic of *mf*. The first staff (Vln. 1) has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The second staff (Vln. 2) has sustained notes. The third staff (Vla.) has eighth-note patterns. The fourth staff (Vlc.) has sustained notes.

18 B

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

24 C "jubilant, bright red"

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

30 D

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

42

E

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

47

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

“crimson”
F with growing intensity

52

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *sost.* *p*

“an accent of light”
sul pont. *p*

57

Vln. 1 —

Vln. 2 —

Vla. *sul pont.* *p*

Vlc. —

“accents of light”
sul pont. *p*

61 G

Vln. 1 — *(p)*

Vln. 2 — *(p)*

Vla. *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 69)*

Vlc. *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 69)*

ord.

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 69)

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 69)

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 69)

“intensely crimson” *molto rit.*

66

Vln. 1 (cresc.)

Vln. 2 (cresc.)

Vla. (cresc.)

Vlc. (cresc.)

“gently silver” [H] Slightly slower ♩ = 100

71 (rit.)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *

Vla.

Vlc.

ff p ff p ff p

p p p p

3 3 3

“fading from silver to white” rit. to end

76

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. 3 3 3

p pp

*Parenthetical, cue-sized notes (in Violin 2 and Violoncello) are to be substituted for the entire measure if the full-sized notes are too high for comfortable playing.

Dedicated to the community of Orlando, Florida, after the tragic shooting of June 12, 2016

5. Many Colors

*"We are of many colors – the rainbow 'neath the sun.
All that we hope and all that we ask is to live together as one."*

At a stately tempo $\text{♩} = 100$

[as if saying:

"We are of ma - ny col - ors..."]

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

6

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

10

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

[A] accel. poco a poco

26

14 (accel.)

B Celebratory ♩ = 116

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

18

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

22

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

26

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

C Subdued

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

33

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

36

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

D Growing in strength

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc.

56

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

59

F *Quietly*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

62

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

65

rit. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Very triumphantly

68

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Slowly G
[as if saying:
"to live
to -
geth - er,
, as
one."]

72

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

rit.

2:40

Total: 12:35

August 18, 2016
New Canaan, Connecticut