

Josh Rodriguez

como los que sueñan
for unaccompanied viola

Note to Performer:

I have provided a compendium of Spanish language translations for the various descriptive words used in the score.

anhelante = yearning
brillante = bright
cantando = singing
con calidez = with warmth
confiado = confident
con gusto = joyfully
luchando = struggling
misterioso = mysterious
nostalgico = nostalgic
solitario = lonely

Program Note:

The title, *como los que sueñan* ["like those who dream"] and conceptual ideas are taken from the the ancient paradoxical Jewish poetry of Psalm 126. On the surface, this psalm seems to be about thankful, even joyful, remembrance. However, these memories devolve into an existential petition. The psalmist desperately desires a return to a healthier, safer time, but does not surrender to despair. This kind of quiet perseverance challenges modern notions of control and instant gratification. It was my aim to musically explore such resilience; this work concludes with a quote from Brahms's *German Requiem*, a melodic fragment he used to set the promise in the fifth verse of this very psalm, "Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy."

Commissioned by Deus Ex Musica for Peter Slowik.

Bio:

Known for his energetic rhythms, rich harmonic language, and striking colors, award-winning composer Josh Rodriguez (b. 1982) continues to gain recognition as an emerging composer and collaborator on a national and international scale. Born in Argentina and raised in Guatemala, Mexico and the United States, Rodriguez's musical imagination has been formed by this bilingual, multi-cultural heritage. He collaborates regularly with theatre and film directors and has received several notable concert commissions in a wide range of musical genres. Rodriguez serves as Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Elmhurst University. <https://www.joshrodriguezmusic.com/>

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$\text{♩} = 56$ nostalgico, solitario

Viola

pp \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow *pp* \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow *p* \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow *p* \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow

6

Vla

pp *mp* \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow *p* \leftarrow *p* \rightarrow *mf*

10

Vla

confiado ritardando.....

p \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow *p*

13

Vla

a tempo

pp \leftarrow *mp* \rightarrow *pp* \leftarrow *p* \rightarrow *ff*

17

Vla

con calidez legato

mf \leftarrow *mp* \rightarrow *f*

21

Vla

brillante

mf \leftarrow *f* \rightarrow *p*

24

Vla

ff

como los que sueñan

con gusto

Vla

p *mf* *f*

espressivo

ritardando.....

Vla

mf *ff*

.....a tempo

cantando

cantando

Vla

p *mf* *p* *mf*

pizz.

Vla

mf

rit.....

Vla

fff *p*

mf *p*

a tempo

42 **anhelante**

mf *p*

46 **con gusto** **luchando**

f

49

51 **rit.....a tempo**

p *mp* *p* *gliss.* *fff*

55 **"those who with tears sow,
will reap with joy"** **molto ritardando.....**

p *mf* *ppp* *mf* *mp* *p*