

Grade 3

Sakari Dixon Vanderveer

Citronella Sunsets

for string orchestra

About Me



Photography by Kat Prado Wilson

Sometimes, I wish composing was as easy as making yogurt—once started, it would essentially create more of itself. Even though that is definitely not the case, I generally still take more enjoyment in the disorderly scrawls on the manuscript paper piling up on my desk than in the tangy bacteria cultures in my crockpot. (However, I'm far more likely to enjoy the yogurt as a late-night snack garnished with honey and walnuts!)

One of my favorite things about composing and performing are the plentiful opportunities to explore new ideas and make discoveries. Back when I wore ponytails like Penny Proud, obsessed over *Animal Planet*, and dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, I began writing my own music thanks to a project in my middle school orchestra class. Before long, I was writing chamber music for my friends year after year.

Today, the ability to explore new ideas with both novices and virtuosi alike truly inspires me. My associations with Derek Bermel, the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, the Portland Youth Philharmonic, and the San Bernardino County Music Educators Association are just a few examples of my commitment to working collaboratively. Additionally, when I coach my violin and viola students through a new piece of repertoire, the opportunity to look at music through a new lens continues to invigorate me.

I also enjoy teaching my students how to write their own music. To that end, in 2020 I founded the You(th) Can Compose! Summer Workshop, a personalized, online program for beginners. In my capacity as a Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Composer Teaching Artist Fellow, I also collaborated with local elementary students to write original works which groups of LACO musicians then performed. Currently, I split my teaching hours between my own private studio and the Arts Connection of San Bernardino County, where I facilitate composition classes in local afterschool programs.

When I'm not working on music or bombarding my entomologist husband with my curiosity about the insects he is studying, I enjoy reading nonfiction, playing board games, and taking lessons in Latin dance.

- Sakari Dixon Vanderveer

Visit www.SakariDixon.com to contact Sakari, learn about her latest projects, or notify her of a performance of this work.

About the Music

Although it can be quite hot in Southern California during the summer, the evenings make it one of my favorite times of the year - a time to watch the symphony at the Bowl, eat outdoors with friends, or go for a stroll at the local market night while the scent of fresh kettle corn fills the air.

One some days, the weather cools down so that it's just right, even though there's still quite a bit of warmth around. On others, the three-digit temperatures carry over into the evening, making a night outdoors a little less than ideal.

Unlike some folks I know, I can stand the heat, but I'm much less a fan of the mosquitoes—probably because they seem to be a fan of me! But it won't stop me from having a good time, and it helps that I don't mind the smell of citronella, either.

Written for the Portland Youth Philharmonic Young String Ensemble as part of the Youth Orchestra Commissioning Initiative, *Citronella Sunsets* is a musical ode to summer evenings while making memories with friends and loved ones.

— Sakari Dixon Vanderveer

Instrumentation:

- 1 - Full Score
- 8 - Violin I
- 8 - Violin II
- 5 - Violin III (Viola T.C)
- 5 - Viola
- 5 - Violoncello
- 5 - Double Bass

Duration: 2 minutes, 45 seconds

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Dance-like $\text{♩} = 232$

Violin I *f*

Violin II *f*

Violin III (Viola T.C.) *mf*

Viola *mf*

Violoncello *mf detached*

Double Bass *mf detached*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

11 **A**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

mf

mf detached

mf detached

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

37 **D** Dance-like ♩=232

The musical score for measures 37-41 of 'Dance-like' (♩=232) features six staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. III, Vla., Vc., and Db. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/8. The score is divided into five measures. Measure 37 starts with a forte (f) dynamic for the first two staves. Measure 38 introduces a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic for the third and fourth staves. Measure 39 continues the mf dynamic for the third and fourth staves. Measure 40 introduces a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic for the fifth and sixth staves. Measure 41 concludes the section with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic for the fifth and sixth staves. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, as well as performance instructions like 'f', 'mf', 'detached', and 'unis.'.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

rit.

Cantabile $\text{♩} = 84$

49 **E**

Vln. I *mp* legato *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* legato *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vln. III *p* lightly *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Vla. *p* lightly *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* lightly *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Db. *p* lightly *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Dance-like $\text{♩} = 232$

55 **F**

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* *mf*

Vln. III *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mp* *mf*

Db. *p* *mp*

More Titles for Young Ensembles:

The Enigma of the Twilight Stallion, for multi-level string orchestra (2019).
Grades 0.5-2.

Little Mountain Pastorale, for string orchestra (2022). Grade 1.5.

Reign of the Hawks, for concert band (2023). Grade 1.5.

Did You Know...?

Sakari Dixon Vanderveer is available for **workshops and rehearsals** over Zoom.

She also offers **commission packages** to ensembles who are eager to collaborate in the creation of new works.

Both of these opportunities are **tailored to the needs of your ensemble** while giving your students **standards-based enrichment** about the creation of new music along the way!

To learn more, visit **www.SakariDixon.com** and navigate to the "Work With Me" page.

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