

Grade 1.5

Sakari Dixon Vanderveer

Little Mountain Pastorale

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 *Little Mountain Pastorale*

I'm quite nostalgic about my childhood memories of growing up in San Bernardino. I remember stopping by Boston Market to grab a steaming-hot order of macaroni, dealing with the perils of the Santa Ana winds in autumn, and waiting at the bus stop in my color-blocked windbreaker (it was the 90s after all!). I'm particularly wistful about how much more space we had in our little suburb on the "north end." The rolling hills lay virtually untouched by development, bringing us reprieve from the nearby cities' hustle and bustle. Today, if you run a Google search for "San Bernardino," one image I bet you won't find is a shepherd guiding his flock through the lush, emerald grasses of Little Mountain in the spring. But that very real scene from my childhood made waiting for the bus to preschool at that time much more exciting!

To this day, these fond memories of my hometown inspire me to share my gratitude for our community whenever I can. Therefore, when the San Bernardino County Music Educators Association granted me the opportunity to conduct the 2023 Elementary Honor Orchestra, I immediately thought of dedicating a piece to this particular pastoral memory.

From sixth through twelfth grade, I looked forward to springtime performances with the SBCMEA Honor Orchestra at the University of Redlands Memorial Chapel—the very stage where *Little Mountain Pastorale* premiered on February 25th, 2023, decades after that hillside became a small plaza and the flock ceased to visit us. I felt honored to mentor and "shepherd" students whose position I was in many seasons ago. Together, we brought fond memories to life while forging new ones to carry with us as the years go by.

To the students of the SBCMEA Elementary Honor Orchestra: May you continue to find joy in your musical journey and be a light in this world, wherever your aspirations take you!

- 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

Performance Notes

At measure 17, the ensemble may perform the *staccato* notes with a brush stroke (i.e., off the string). However, it is also acceptable to remain on the string.

At measure 29, it is recommended that the eighth notes remain on the string.

Little Mountain Pastorale

Joyfully ♩ = 100

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Violin 1 *f* non div.

Violin 2 *f* non div.

Violin 3 (Viola T.C.) *f* non div.

Viola *f* non div.

Violoncello *f*

Double Bass

Vn. 1 *f*

Vn. 2 *mf*

Vn. 3 *mf*

Va. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

A

B

[illegible]

C

[illegible]

Wistfully ♩ = 88

Vn. 1

Vn. 1

D

PERUSAL SCORE

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