

J. Kimo Williams

Quiet Shadows



SOLO VIOLA

Quiet Shadows for a solo instrument is my musical portrayal of a soldier alone but with others on guard duty in Vietnam.

Guard duty began late in the afternoon while it was still daylight. I recall one particular duty that began as always. First, I would arrive at my post and start inspecting my surroundings to become familiar with the jungle growth in front of the bunker before night.

However, this bunker was situated near a very strangely-shaped tree, which I immediately sensed would fool me later into mistaking it for an enemy soldier. I tried to memorize its' shape, but, sure enough, when night fell, I knew that the tree trunk was the enemy. My apprehension overcame me, and I contemplated shooting up a flare to warn others. I realized that it was That tree. Rather than calming my fears, I thought about how much I missed home and continued to perceive other shapes as dangers in the darkness, which in the morning daylight proved only to be natural growths of nature in the jungle surroundings.

I felt rather foolish until I shared my experience with the other soldier on duty that night. However, most confessed to having had the same thoughts that I did about home and about what might be out there in front of us.

The performer's position facing stage left (stage right if left-handed) is the representation of that soldier keeping an eye out for danger to protect his fellow soldiers, which in turn protects the country he is serving (the audience).

The audience (metaphorically those being protected) never sees this soldier's face but knows they are there and is reassured.

The performer represents that soldier alone at night with his thoughts. This work has no restrictions on the performer's interpretation of these thoughts, other than the notes themselves. Dynamics, articulation, tempo, metric timing, and bar lines are none existent except in the performer's mind and his/her frame of reference based on the premise of the composition.

My purpose with this work is to create an interactive performance with the instrumentalist bringing his/her emotional interpretation of my thoughts about this significant event represented by the notes on the page.



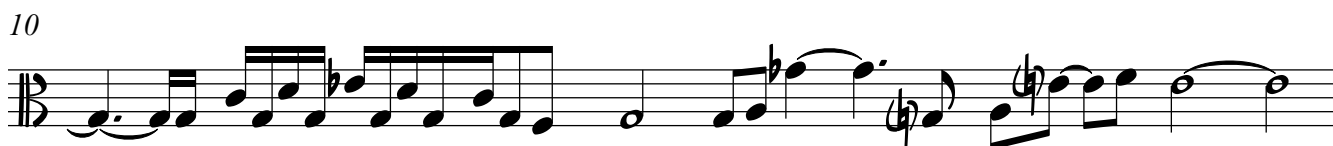
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A soldier on guard duty in Vietnam

Instrumentalist should stand on stage facing stage left (stage right if left handed) with side bow arm to audience as shown in image.

Accidentals are good just for the system that they are in except when tied to a new system. Dynamics, phrasing, articulation and tempo are at the discretion of the performer.

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Viola-Quiet Shadows

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56

Musical staff 1: Measures 56-61. Features a melodic line with a half note, followed by eighth notes, and a triplet of eighth notes.

62

Musical staff 2: Measures 62-66. Features a melodic line with a half note, followed by eighth notes, and a triplet of eighth notes.

67

Musical staff 3: Measures 67-71. Features a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes.

72

Musical staff 4: Measures 72-77. Features a melodic line with eighth notes, quarter notes, and a triplet of eighth notes.

78

Musical staff 5: Measures 78-81. Features a melodic line with eighth notes, quarter notes, and a triplet of eighth notes.

82

Musical staff 6: Measures 82-84. Features a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes.

85

Musical staff 7: Measures 85-91. Features a melodic line with eighth notes, quarter notes, and a half note.

92

Musical staff 8: Measures 92-94. Features a melodic line with eighth notes, quarter notes, and a half note.