Apparition
for viola and piano

by Kyle Gann
1999/2016
Apparition

In 1999 I wrote a clarinet sonata called the “Last Chance” Sonata because it was my last 20th-century work, and in a slightly retro (for me, meaning pre-minimalist) idiom. In 2016, violist/violinist Helena Baillie asked me if I had considered arranging it for viola. I hadn’t, and three of the movements didn’t seem quite appropriate for a string instrument. But the slow third movement, called “Apparition,” was perfect for viola, so I quickly did the required editing. I dedicate it to Helena with thanks for giving me the idea.

Duration: eight minutes
Reverent, mystical, and smooth as silk

\( \text{\( \dot{q} = 69 \) or slower} \)

\( \text{\( \dot{d} = 69 \)} \)

for Helena Baillie

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with ghostly quiet
Gradually accel.
back up to tempo
once back up to tempo, the momentum should be a little bouncy, like a harp,

and almost mechanical, like clockwork

always pp
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