

# Blue Hour

*for String Orchestra*

**JESSICA MEYER**

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4'

## PROGRAM NOTE

Whenever I can during the non-summer months, I drive out to Montauk, Long Island to rent a cottage on the ocean. My love for this town started in 2016 when I became a regular each summer as a violist and resident composer at Music for Montauk concerts. Over the pandemic, I needed a place to escape to and work other than my apartment in the Bronx and this road trip has become a regular occurrence whenever I can work it into my schedule. I now look at my catalog and see almost all of my pieces since 2021 have either been brainstormed, written, or edited there.

I have also developed a new hobby: you can see me trotting across Old Montauk Highway in whatever I can grab to keep me warm after I roll out of bed every morning just so I can take pictures on the beach. My favorite moments are right before the sun rises during the blue hour, especially when a deep reddish orange starts to form on the horizon. In the winter light with the right amount of clouds hanging around, you could see some of the most amazing sunrises and displays of color. I will watch the sunrise and sunset in MTK any chance I can get.

This piece is particularly about the period of time during the pre-dawn hours while waiting for the sunrise. I am so full of gratitude when I get to witness it and I have chosen soaring melodies and visceral rhythms to help express that. Most of all, I wanted this piece to be fun - because life should be fun and feel good.

Many thanks to Shane Peters at the Ridgefield Public Schools in CT for this opportunity to tell this musical story about my favorite place.

# Blue Hour

Commissioned for the Ridgefield, CT Public Schools

♩ = 50 **With Gratitude**

JESSICA MEYER

Musical score for measures 1-6. The score is for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 50 and the mood is 'With Gratitude'. The dynamics are marked as *mp*, *pp*, and *p*. The Violin 1 part features a melodic line with a triplet in measure 6. The Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and some movement. The Double Bass part is mostly sustained.

Musical score for measures 7-11. The score is for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked as *p*, *pp*, *mp*, and *fp*. The Violin 1 part continues its melodic line. The Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello parts have more movement, including a crescendo leading to a fortissimo (*fp*) dynamic in measure 10. The Double Bass part also has a crescendo leading to *fp*.

14

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*f*

20

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*mf*

29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*rit.....*

♩ = 112 With Eagerness and Joy

33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*p* *mf* *p*

This system contains measures 33 through 36. The first two staves (Vln. 1 and Vln. 2) feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and accents. The Viola staff (Vla.) has a melodic line starting at measure 34 with dynamics *p*, *mf*, and *p*. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (Db.) staves are mostly silent, with a few notes in measure 35.

37

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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

This system contains measures 37 through 40. The Violin staves (Vln. 1 and Vln. 2) continue with their rhythmic patterns. The Viola staff (Vla.) has a melodic line starting at measure 38 with dynamics *p* and *mf*. The Violoncello (Vc.) staff has a melodic line starting at measure 38 with dynamics *p* and *mf*, including a triplet in measure 39. The Double Bass (Db.) staff is mostly silent.

41

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*  
gliss for the duration of the note value

Vc. *gliss.*

Db. *pizz.* *p*

45

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc.

Db.

49

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *bring out*  
*mp*

Vc. *mp*

Db. *mp*

52

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.



55

Musical score for measures 55-57. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef. Measures 55-56: eighth-note patterns. Measure 57: *tr* (trill) on a whole note, *mf*.
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef. Measures 55-56: eighth-note patterns. Measure 57: eighth-note patterns, *mf*.
- Vla.:** Alto clef. Measures 55-56: eighth-note patterns. Measure 57: eighth-note patterns, *mf*.
- Vc.:** Bass clef. Measures 55-56: whole notes. Measure 57: eighth-note patterns, *tr* (trill) on a whole note, *mf*.
- Db.:** Bass clef. Measures 55-56: eighth-note patterns. Measure 57: eighth-note patterns, *mf*, *arco*.

58 (*tr*)

Musical score for measures 58-60. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef. Measure 58: *tr* (trill) on a whole note. Measure 59: quarter notes. Measure 60: quarter notes with a triplet of eighth notes, *mf*.
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef. Measures 58-60: eighth-note patterns, *mf*.
- Vla.:** Alto clef. Measures 58-60: eighth-note patterns, *mf*.
- Vc.:** Bass clef. Measures 58-60: eighth-note patterns, *mf*.
- Db.:** Bass clef. Measures 58-60: eighth-note patterns, *mf*.

61

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

This system contains measures 61, 62, and 63. The first violin part (Vln. 1) features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The second violin (Vln. 2), viola (Vla.), and cello (Vc.) parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The double bass (Db.) part provides a steady eighth-note bass line. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid across the score.

64

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

This system contains measures 64, 65, and 66. The first violin part (Vln. 1) has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The second violin (Vln. 2), viola (Vla.), and cello (Vc.) parts continue with their rhythmic accompaniment. The double bass (Db.) part has a more active bass line. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the lower staves. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL ONLY' is overlaid across the score.

67

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 67 through 69. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, such as sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and rests. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

70

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 70 through 72. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, such as sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and rests. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

Musical score for strings, starting at measure 72. The score is marked *fff* (fortissimo). The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The score is marked with a large watermark "For Perusal Only" and includes the text "Performance materials must be purchased via www.jessicameyermusic.com".