

Commissioned by CAPMT  
California Association of Professional Music Teachers

# Heart of the World

Op. 58b

*In Memory of Raymond Benjamin*

for Violin and Piano

BY RUSSELL STEINBERG

DURATION: 11 minutes

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REVIEW ONLY

# NOTES

*Heart of the World* is dedicated to the memory of Raymond Benjamin, husband of Renka Benjamin, a renowned educator both in Los Angeles with the Stephen Wise Temple Schools and in Israel. Ray was a great lover of music and strong supporter of Israel. I remember him as remarkably humble and highly educated. The title of this piece comes from a Hebrew poem by Avraham Ben Yitzhak called "Blessed are they that sow but do not reap".

*Blessed are they who know  
their hearts will cry out from the wilderness  
and that quiet will blossom from their lips.  
Blessed are these  
for they will be gathered to the heart of the world...*

The image of a thrown stone creating ripples in water and preoccupied me, with its associations of reverberation and disintegration. And in fact, the piece both begins and ends with chords stuck in various repetitive patterns to evoke ripples. An even more obvious theme is a nostalgia for the beauty and direct expression of Baroque musical textures, evident in clear tonal structure and melodic decoration of textures. In a quest for simplicity, a simple sad waltz in g minor dominates the entire work. The piano develops this melody and turns it upside-down in a more impassioned middle section. The violin interrupts several times with soloistic lines reminiscent of Vivaldi. At the climax, the violin soars over a melodramatic waltz variation until the music ultimately disintegrates back into the ripples with which it began.

*Heart of the World* is approximately 11 minutes. It is available in two versions: a work for violin solo and chamber orchestra, and a duo for violin and piano. The two versions are not transcriptions as they differ in several important places both in texture and structure.

PREVIEW ONLY

# Heart of the World

Russell Steinberg

**Larghetto** ♩ = 80

Solo Violin

Piano

Vln.

Pno.

**Andantino** ♩ = 92

\* Ped.

Con Moto ♩ = 126

*sul G cantabile espress.*

Vln. <sup>15</sup> <sup>5</sup> *mp*

Pno. \* Ped. \*

Vln. <sup>24</sup>

Pno. *cantabile*

Vln. <sup>33</sup> <sup>5</sup>

Pno. *misterioso* *pp* *p*

Vln.

Pno.

*mp*

*espress.*

*8<sup>va</sup>-1*

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

Vln.

Pno.

51

*mp*

*8<sup>va</sup>*

*pp*

*p*

Vln.

Pno.

60

*mp*

*cantabile*

Vln. *mf* *p* rit. A tempo

Pno. *mf* *mp* *espress.* *cantabile* 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

Vln. 76 *b* *tr*

Pno. 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup> 5 5 5 3

Vln. 84 *sub. pp* *pizz.* 5 *tr* *arco* 5 *tr*

Pno. *sub. pp* 3 *tr* *mp* *mp* 5



Vln. (tr) *mf* 5

Pno. *cresc.*

Vln. 97 *f* 5 *tr*

Pno. *f* 5 *sfz*

Vln. 104 (tr) *tr* 5

Pno. 5

Andante ♩ = 108

*appassionata*

Vln. *mf* *f*

Pno. *sfz*

Vln. 114 *p* *f* *mp*

Pno. *sfz* *f* *mp* *p*

Vln. 118 *mp* *f* *p* *f* *pp*

Pno. *f sfz* *f* *mp* *f* *pp*

Violin I

Pno.

125 **Con Moto** ♩ = 126

Vln. *mp* 6 6 6 6 6

Pno. *cantabile* *f* 5 5

126

Vln. 6 6 6 6 6

Pno. *mf*

Violin I

6 6 6 6 6 6

Piano

5

Violin I

128

*mf* 6 6 cresc. 6 6 6 6

Piano

Violin I

129

6 6 6 6 *ff* 3 3

*rit.* *Allegante* ♩ = 1 *appassionato* *f*

Piano

*ff* *sfz*

Vln. *p* *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *p*

Vln. 135 *f* *p*

Pno. *f sfz* *f* *p*

Vln. 138 *f* *Con Moto* ♩ = 126

Pno. *f*

Vln.

6 6 6 6 6 6

Pno.

v v

Vln.

6 6 6 6 3 3

Pno.

mf 3 3 3 3 3 3 5

Vln.

tr 5 5 cresc.

*sfz* *mp*

Pno.

*sfz* *mp* cresc.

**allargando** **Maestoso** ♩ = 80 **exaggerate**

Vln. Pno.

**Con moto** ♩ = 126

Vln. Pno.

155

Vln. Pno.

Vln. *mf* *allargando* *f*

Pno. *f*

Vln. 158 *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *Con Moto* ♩ = 126

Pno. *ff* *mf sfz* *p f*

Vln. 165 *f*

Pno. *cantabile espress.* *sfz* *mf* *f* *sfz* *mf* *p* *f*



accel.

Waltz ♩ = 144

Vln. *mf*

Pno. *sfz* *p* *f* *mf*

178

Vln.

Pno.

185

Vln.

Pno. *f*

*rit.* **Meno Mosso** ♩ = 108

Vln. *pp*

Pno. *p* *sfz* *p* *pp*

8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

*rit.* **A tempo**

Vln. *p* *espress.*

Pno. *pp* *espress.*

Una Corda

*rit.* **ppp**

Vln. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

Andantino ♩ = 92

17 *ad libitum*

Vln. *mp* *p* *f* *p*

Pno. *pp* *p* *f sfz*

*tre corda*

223

Vln. *espress.*

Pno. *p* *mf* *mp*

227

Vln. *sfz* *p* *pp*

Pno. *p* *sfz* *mp* *pp*

*8va*

This system contains two staves. The upper staff is for Violin (Vln.) and the lower staff is for Piano (Pno.). The key signature has two flats. The Vln. part begins with a triplet of eighth notes. The Pno. part features a complex texture with triplets and octaves in the right hand, and a bass line with a triplet in the left hand. Performance markings include *espress.* and a dynamic marking of *p*.

This system contains two staves. The upper staff is for Violin (Vln.) and the lower staff is for Piano (Pno.). The Vln. part starts at measure 240 with a dynamic marking of *p* and includes a cadenza section. The Pno. part continues with complex textures, including octaves and triplets. Performance markings include *espress.* and a dynamic marking of *p*.

This system contains two staves. The upper staff is for Violin (Vln.) and the lower staff is for Piano (Pno.). The Vln. part starts at measure 245 with a dynamic marking of *mf* and includes trills. The Pno. part features sustained chords and octaves in both hands. Performance markings include *mf* and trill symbols (*tr*).

8 (tr) *f* *p* *mf* *p* 6 6 6

Ossia "Ghost Accompaniment"  
(optional part)

Pno. *with a ghostly resonance* *p* *pp*

*Una Corda*

254 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *mp*

Pno.

257 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *mf* *mp*

Vln.

Pno. *mp*

This system contains two staves. The upper staff is for Violin I, starting with a sixteenth-note tremolo (marked with a '6') and moving to eighth-note patterns (marked with a '5'). It includes dynamic markings *sfz* and *mf*. The lower staff is for Piano, with dynamic markings *mf*, *f*, and *mf*.

This system contains two staves. The upper staff is for Violin I, starting at measure 264 with a sixteenth-note tremolo (marked with a '6') and moving to eighth-note patterns. It includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and the instruction *leggiero scherzando*. The lower staff is for Piano, with dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and includes a *Vivace* marking.

This system contains two staves. The upper staff is for Violin I, starting at measure 267 with eighth-note patterns. It includes a dynamic marking *mf*. The lower staff is for Piano, with sustained chords and a dynamic marking *mf*.

Vln. *cresc.* *mf*

Pno. *cresc.*

**Pesante**

274

Vln.

Pno. *sf*

277

Vln. *ff sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *trm trm*

Pno. *f*

2  
Vln. *mp* *lontano espr.* (tr)  
Pno.

293  
Vln. *sf* *f* *mp* *espress.*  
Pno.

299  
Vln. *tr*  
Pno.



304

Vln. *pp* *(tr)* *8va*

Pno. *pp*

308

Vln. *8va*

Pno. *tr*

313

Vln. *f*

Pno. *f*

Vln. *p*

Pno. *p*

Vln. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

*espress.*

*Morendo*

320

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