

VANDALIA:
AN ELEGY FOR APPALACHIA
for string orchestra

Preview Score, not for performance

Walker Williams

Vandalia was the name of a proposed colony on the Ohio River. The Vandalia colony was never founded, but the name was later considered as a potential name for the US state now known as West Virginia. This piece is a programmatic work that attempts to articulate the complex set of emotions that I have towards my home state of West Virginia, located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains.

Appalachia has always been a fairly poor and undeveloped region, and recent economic changes have made life increasingly hard. Like many young college graduates from rural Appalachia, I have had to face the difficult decision of whether to stay and try to find work in an environment that is problematic both economically and culturally, or to leave, taking with me any chance of making a positive change to the region. There are no easy answers to questions like these, and this piece attempts to capture that dichotomy and ambiguity.

The opening and closing sections use elements from blues and old-time Appalachian music to create a sense of place as well as hardship and weariness. The contrasting middle section is an appreciation of the natural beauty of the region. Looking out over mountains covered in oak forests, stands of redbud and dogwood trees covered in spring buds, or the broad Potomac River, for just a moment all the difficulties fade away, leaving nothing but the surrounding presence of nature. This cannot last, however, and the problems of life seem all the more deep and wearying for having been momentarily forgotten. The piece is tied together by short interjections by a solo violin, taking the role of an old fiddle player narrating the story, who introduces the primary melodic material of the piece, and plays an ambiguous ending statement that leaves the piece open to interpretation.

-Walker Williams
2016

Vandalia: an Elegy for Appalachia

Duration: c. 6:00

Full Score

Ponderously (♩ = c. 40)

Walker Williams (b. 1993)

Violin I: *ppp sempre*, *sul E*

Violin II: *con sord.*, *ppp sempre*

Viola: *con sord.*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp sempre*

Violoncello I: *con sord.*, *ppp*, *pp*

Violoncello II: *con sord.*, *ppp*, *pp*

Contrabass: *ppp sempre*, *pizz.*, *pp*

Preview Score, not for performance

Moving Forward (♩ = c. 44)

Vln. I: *7*, *9*, *6/8*, *8/8*, *3/8*, *6/8*, *9*, *4*, *8/8*, *6/8*, *9*, *4*, *8/8*, *6/8*

Vln. I: *solo*, *f*, *mp*

Vln. II: *p*, *ppp*

Vla.: *p*, *ppp*

Vc.: *p*, *ppp*

Vc.: *p*, *ppp*

Cb.: *p*, *ppp*

14 **6**

18

con sord. tutti *adrift, almost aimless*

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. I *con sord. (tutti)* *adrift, almost aimless*

Vln. II *pp* *adrift, almost aimless*

Vla. *mp* *bring out* *pp sempre*

Vc. *mp* *pp sempre*

Vc. *mp* *pp sempre*

Cb. *(pizz.)* *pp*

Preview Score, not for performance

22

mournful and lonesome

Vln. I *pp* *mp*

Vln. I *pp* *mp*

Vln. II *pp* *mp*

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Cb. *(pizz.)* *pp* *p* *mp*

poco rall. -----

30

Vln. I
mp
pp
n

Vln. I
mp
mournful and lonesome
pp
n

Vln. II
mp
mournful and lonesome
pp
n
senza sord.

Vla.
mp
mournful and lonesome
pp
n
pizz.
senza sord. arco

Vc.
mp
mournful and lonesome
pp
pizz.
senza sord. arco

Vc.
mp
pp
senza sord. arco

Cb.
mp
pp
pp sempre

3/8 6/8 2/4

Preview Score, not for performance

Suspended, weightless (♩ = c. 44) accel. -----

38

Vln. I
ppp
senza sord.
mp
p
mf
f

Vln. I
ppp
senza sord.
mp
p
mf
f

Vln. II
ppp
mp
p
mf

Vla.
ppp
mp
p
mf

Vc.
ppp
mp
p
mf

Vc.
sul C
pp
p
mf

Cb.

2/4 3/4 2/4 6/8

With Eager Anticipation (♩. = c. 58)

Musical score for measures 45-49. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. Measure 45 is marked with a box containing the number 45. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as ♩. = c. 58. The score features various dynamics including *f*, *sfz*, *p*, and *mf*, along with performance instructions such as *excitedly*, *pizz*, and *arco*. The Cb. part includes a *pizz* instruction in measure 49.

Preview Score, not for performance

Musical score for measures 52-53. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. Measure 52 is marked with a box containing the number 52, and measure 53 is marked with a box containing the number 53. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked as ♩. = c. 58. The score features various dynamics including *mf* and *mf sempre*, along with performance instructions such as *eagerly impatient*, *mf*, and *arco*. A large grey rectangular area covers the right side of the score, obscuring the musical notation for measures 52 and 53.

3 + 2 + 2

rit.

59

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Cb.

Preview Score, not for performance

accel. (♩ = c. 44) **With Joy** (♩ = c. 58)

passionately

64

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Cb.

weightless

pp

p

f

ff

weightless

pp

p

f

ff

weightless

pp

p

f

ff

weightless

pp

mp

f

ff

weightless

pp

mp

f

ff

weightless

pp

mp

f

ff

weightless

pp

mp

f

ff

71 **rit.** (♩ = 50) **2**/**4**

solo foreboding

Vln. I *f* *passionately* *f* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vln. I *f* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vln. II *f* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vla. *passionately* *f* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vc. *passionately* *f* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vc. *f* *mp* *p* *pp*

Cb. *f* *mp* *p* *pp*

80 **a tempo** (♩ = 58) **2**/**4** **3**/**4** **4**/**4** **6**/**8**

Preview Score, not for performance

tutti *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *ff* *sub. pp*

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *ff* *agressively*

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *ff* *agressively*

Vln. II *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *ff* *agressively*

Vla. *pp* *3* *ff* *agressively*

Vc. *pp* *ff* *agressively*

Vc. *pp* *ff* *agressively*

Cb. *pp* *ff*

85 **86** **Uncertainly** (♩. = c. 44) **accel.**

Musical score for measures 85-94. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as c. 44 (quarter note). The dynamics range from *pp* to *p*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. The section ends with a **pp** dynamic marking.

Preview Score, not for performance

95 (accel.) **99** (♩. = 48) **poco accel.**

Musical score for measures 95-104. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as 48 (quarter note). The dynamics range from *pp* to *p*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. The section ends with a **poco accel.** marking.

(poco accel.) ----- **106 With Bitter Resignation** (♩. = c. 50)

103

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *arco, staccato on the string* *sim.*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *pizz.*

Cb. *mp* *mf*

Preview Score, not for performance

rit. ----- **a tempo** **molto rit.** ----- $\frac{4}{2}$

110

Vln. I *f* *mp*

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

Vla. *f* *mp* *p* *con sord.*

Vc. *f* *mp* *p* *con sord.*

Vc. *stop sound* *f* *mp* *p* *arco*

Cb. *stop sound* *f* *mp* *p*

116 **Again Ponderous** (♩ = c. 40)

4/2 **2/2** **4/2** *melancholic, but with a small seed of hope*

The score consists of five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. The Vln. I part features a solo with a dynamic of *p* and a triplet of eighth notes. The Vln. II part is marked *con sord.* and *dissappointed*. The Vla. part is marked *pp* *arco* and *dissappointed*. The Vc. part is marked *pp*. The Cb. part is marked *pp* *sempre*. The score concludes with a dynamic of *pppp* and a *(mf) pizz.* instruction for the Cb. part.

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