

Alicia Castillo

# Solitude Suite

*for solo guitar*

12'

- I. Evenfall
- II. Solitude
- III. Daybreak

2020

## Notes

*Solitude Suite* is a set of 3 pieces for solo guitar that were all written at various times during the 2020 COVID-19 quarantine. They originally began as sketches for miniatures and compositional exercises, but eventually these particular pieces grew into something more. The suite draws on influences from jazz chordal structures, harmonies, and voice leading, specifically in *Evenfall* and *Daybreak*.

As the suite began to take shape, I imagined it as a retelling of my experience and perhaps, maybe many others experiences with quarantine, synonymous with the stages of the day. *Evenfall* is light and waltz like, capturing the sunset in its warmth and perpetual downward motion. I like to think of it as bright and sparkling, before the close of day. In contrast, *Solitude* explores darker themes of the night and the quiet reflection that comes with it. Based around static harmonies and climbing lines, the piece is very minimal yet evokes lingering shadows and silhouettes. *Daybreak* is the return of the light after the dark; the beginning of hope. This piece brings back the warm, chordal harmonies and is reminiscent of the quiet at the start of the day that gradually grows into more.

The movements of *Solitude Suite* may be performed as stand alone pieces, though the full story unfolds when they are heard together.

-Alicia Castillo

# I. Evenfall

♩ = 55  
*Lightly*

Guitar

6

10

16

20

24

28 *rit.* *a tempo*

33

38

Detailed description: This is a guitar score for the piece 'I. Evenfall'. It consists of ten staves of music. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as 55 quarter notes per minute and the performance style is 'Lightly'. The score begins with a series of chords and eighth-note patterns. At measure 16, the tempo and feel change to a more rhythmic, eighth-note driven pattern. At measure 28, there is a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking, followed by a 'a tempo' marking. The piece concludes with a final chord and a fermata.

## II. Solitude

♩ = 215 or faster

*Dark, Resonant*

Guitar

The score is written for guitar in treble clef with a 9/16 time signature. It consists of seven systems of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13). The notation includes various rhythmic values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes), rests, and fingerings (1-4). Dynamic markings include accents (>) and breath marks (V). The score features several repeat signs with first and second endings. A section starting at measure 7 is labeled 'VII' and 'XII VII XII VII XII'. A section starting at measure 9 is labeled 'VII or II position'. The piece concludes with a 'Fine' marking above measure 5. The final measure of the score is marked with a circled 2.

1

3

5

7

9

11

13

Fine

VII

XII VII XII VII XII

VII or II position

15 *Pont.*

17 *Tasto Pont. Tasto*

21

32

35

38

46

49 *D.S. al Fine*

## III. Daybreak

♩ = 50

*Warmly*

Guitar

*rubato*

4

*a tempo*

7

*rit.*

*p*

11

*rit.*

*a tempo*

14

18

*mf*

22

Musical notation for measures 22-26. The piece is in G major (one sharp). Measure 22 starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melody of eighth notes and a bass line of chords. Measure 23 has a 3/4 time signature and includes a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 24 has a 2/4 time signature. Measures 25 and 26 continue with similar rhythmic patterns.

27

Musical notation for measures 27-30. Measure 27 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 28 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 29 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 30 has a 2/4 time signature. The notation includes various rhythmic values and chordal accompaniment.

31

rit. *a tempo*

Musical notation for measures 31-35. Measure 31 has a 4/4 time signature and includes a triplet. Measure 32 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 33 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 34 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 35 has a 2/4 time signature. The tempo marking changes from *rit.* to *a tempo* between measures 31 and 32.

36

rit. *p*

Musical notation for measures 36-42. Measure 36 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 37 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 38 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 39 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 40 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 41 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 42 has a 4/4 time signature. The tempo marking is *rit.* and the dynamic marking is *p*.

43

rit. *accelerando*

Musical notation for measures 43-47. Measure 43 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 44 has a 3/4 time signature. Measure 45 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 46 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 47 has a 2/4 time signature. The tempo marking changes from *rit.* to *accelerando* between measures 43 and 44. The notation features a series of triplets in the bass line.

48

rit.

Musical notation for measures 48-52. Measure 48 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 49 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 50 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 51 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 52 has a 3/4 time signature. The tempo marking is *rit.*. The notation includes triplets and a final cadence with circled numbers 3 and 4.