Dreams in the Dusk
concerto for saxophone and wind ensemble

by

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DREAMS IN THE DUSK
By Carl Sandburg

Dreams in the dusk,
Only dreams closing the day
And with the day’s close going back
To the gray things, the dark things,
The far, deep things of dreamland.

Dreams, only dreams in the dusk,
Only the old remembered pictures
Of lost days when the day’s loss
Wrote in tears the heart’s loss.

Tears and loss and broken dreams
May find your heart at dusk.

DEDICATION

This music is dedicated to Julia Hope Voelker.
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ABSTRACT

_Dreams in the Dusk_, a concerto for alto saxophone and wind ensemble, is cast in one continuous movement with several varying sections, woven together with similar melodic, motivic, and harmonic material. The instrumentation is: piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, E♭ clarinet, 3 B♭ clarinets, B♭ bass clarinet, B♭ contrabass clarinet, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, solo E♭ alto saxophone, B♭ soprano saxophone, E♭ alto saxophone, B♭ tenor saxophone, E♭ baritone saxophone, 4 F horns, 3 B♭ trumpets, 2 trombones, bass trombone, 2 euphoniums, 2 tubas, double bass, timpani, piano, harp, and 4 percussion (complete percussion list included with score). There are two primary musical gestures that occupy the musical foreground of the piece: the first, a moaning or wailing, which is usually manifest in the form of long, slow portamenti between notes in various melodic structures, and the second, quick crescendi, often orchestrated into either spacious quintal chords or tight harmonic clusters. The melodic groans are a musical mourning, analogues of sung or spoken lamentations. The quick crescendi are used in a variety of contexts and are derived from the musical icon of reverse tape playback effects. _Dreams in the Dusk_ was inspired by a poem of the same name by American poet Carl Sandburg and by walking on a cold, snowy evening at dusk on a farm in rural Michigan, miles from the nearest city. These walks at dusk were a way to cope with the passing of a family member, and Sandburg’s poem not only gave voice to the emotions associated with death, but also served as a catalyst for the form and dramatic arc of the music.
INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
Flute 1,2
Oboe 1,2
E♭ Clarinet
B♭ Clarinet 1,2,3
B♭ Bass Clarinet
B♭ Contrabass Clarinet
Bassoon 1,2
Contrabassoon

Solo E♭ Alto Saxophone
B♭ Soprano Saxophone
E♭ Alto Saxophone
B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone

F Horn 1,2,3,4
B♭ Trumpet 1,2,3
Trombone 1,2
Bass Trombone
Euphonium 1,2
Tuba 1,2

Double Bass

Timpani (4 drums)
Piano

Percussion (4 players):
1. Marimba (5 octave)
2. Vibraphone
3. Xylophone, Crotales (with brass mallet and with double bass bow), Suspended cymbal (with sizzle chain),
4. Large bass drum, Tam-tam (with metal triangle beater), Triangle, Snare drum, Suspended cymbal, Wind chimes

Transposed Score
Duration: ca. 13:00
Dreams in the Dusk
Dreams in the Dusk
Dreams in the Dusk

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Pno.
Ft. 1
Ft. 2
Ob. 1,2
E♭ Cl.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2,3
B. Cl.
Ch. Cl.
Bsn. 1,2
Cln.
Skt-Sns.
S. Sns.
A. Sns.
T. Sns.
B. Sns.
Hn. 1,2
Hn. 3,4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2,3
Tbn. 1,2
B. Tbn.
Euph. 1,2
Tba. 1,2
Db.
Timp.
Pno.
Dreams in the Dusk
Dreams in the Dusk
Dreams in the Dusk