

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *As the Darkness Falls*

By

Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

Instrumentation: Standard String Orchestra

Duration: 5 ½ Minutes

Grade: 4

Harmonic Language: Neotonal

Composition Date: 2007

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Composer Bio:

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:

Strings Around the World Series:

- African Serenade (Grade 3 ½) AP – 4122
- Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3) AP – 4114
- Brazil! (Grade 3) AP – 4109
- Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3) AP – 4106
- Gvovi (Grade 2) AP – 4110
- Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2) AP – 4116
- Raga India (Grade 4) AP – 4108
- Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3) AP – 4124
- Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1) AP – 4121
- South Africa Sings (Grade 3) AP – 4115
- Tango Loca (Grade 4) AP – 4118
- Tanz! (Grade 3) AP – 4118
- The Mambo Kings (Grade 3) AP – 4119
- Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3) AP – 4117

Strings Today Series

- Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4) AP – 4112
- Rain Sketch (Grade 3) AP – 4123

Composer Notes:

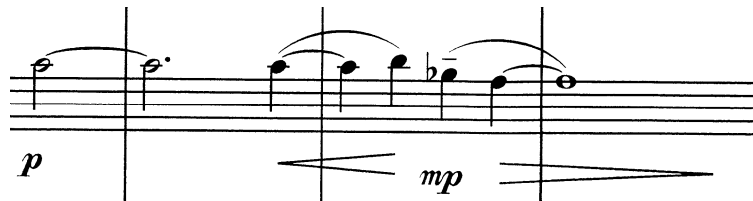
As the Darkness Falls is a minimalist work characterized by the slow unfolding and development of thematic materials. Themes appear in augmentation, diminution and as both altered and unaltered motivic fragments.

The formal structure is ternary. The sections tend to overlap. One section beginning before the previous section has completed its final statement.

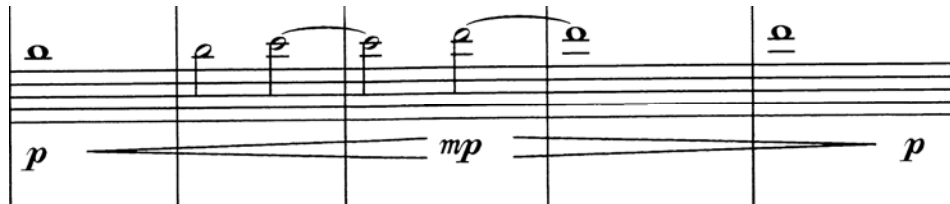
Form:

Introduction	ms. 1 – 9
A	ms. 8 – 23
B	ms. 24 – 72
A'	ms. 72 - 92

Theme 1 (Violoncello, ms. 8 – 11):



Theme 2 (Violin II, ms. 22 – 24):



Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.

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