

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Rain Sketch*

by

Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

Instrumentation: Standard String Orchestra

Duration: 3 ½ Minutes

Grade: 3

Harmonic Language: Neotonal

Meter: 4/4

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment, Canon

Date of Composition: 1997, rev. 2007

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585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824-0157 USA
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Premiere: Tiffany Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra (Lees Summit, Missouri), Amy Dunker, Conductor (1998)

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:

Rain Sketch is a minimalist work inspired by the musical works of Arvo Pärt and Henryk Gorecki. The work juxtaposes sound with silence and features the slow introduction and unfolding of a descending melodic pattern in various rhythmic permutations as well as in canon with itself.

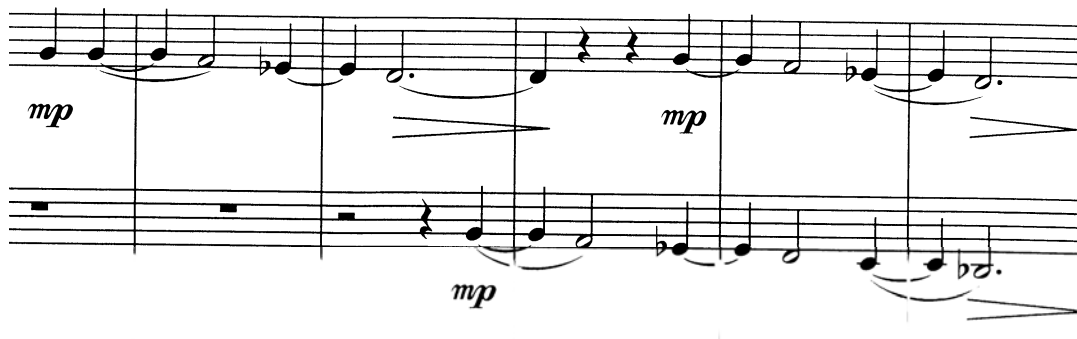
Minimalism:

Minimalist music is an originally American genre of experimental based mostly in consonant harmony, steady pulse, stasis and slow transformation, and often reiteration of musical phrases or smaller units or motifs. The term *minimalist music* is derived from the concept of minimalism, which was earlier applied to the visual arts. Minimalist music is frequently used in movie scores and other media to provide a backdrop or mood for a particular scene or opening, or as an episode in a film score. Prominent minimalist composers include Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Arvo Pärt, John Adams and Henryk Gorecki.¹

Form:

A	ms. 1 – 25
A'	ms. 26 - 55

Theme (Violins I and II, ms.16 -22):



The image displays a musical score for two violins, labeled 'Violins I and II', covering measures 16 to 22. The notation is written on two staves. The top staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The music consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together, with some notes tied across measures. The bottom staff also features a *mp* dynamic marking and contains similar rhythmic patterns, including some rests. The overall texture is sparse and repetitive, typical of minimalist music.

Recommended Listening:

Arvo Pärt's *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten*
Tabula Rasa CD

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0000262K7/103-8669652-1049409?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B0000262K7>

Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten mp3

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000V8C4NW/103-8669652-1049409?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B000V8C4NW>

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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¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimalist_music (accessed 03/04/08).