

ROBERT RANKIN

Far West

for string quartet

PERUSSAL

SCORE & PARTS



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Note:

“Far, far from everything, throw behind you a comb,
a forest will grow”

- *Far West*, Czeslaw Milosz

I have been a native east coaster for most of my life, having only made it to the other side of this country for the first time a little over three years ago. My first impression of the land was the simultaneous beauty and violence of it all; mountain ranges shooting out of seeming nowhere, the gnarly twisting and tangling of the trees. In making these trips, there is a sense that I am somehow part of the mythical American tradition of “going west” and becoming enraptured in the grandness of it all. I feel as though I am seeing the California landscape through the (sometimes romantic) lenses of John Muir, Walt Whitman, Ansel Adams, Joni Mitchell, and Jack Kerouac.

Far West is a sort of musical mediation on the beauty, stillness, and aesthetics of experiencing the natural wonders of the west.

duration *ca.* 5 minutes

FAR WEST was written for the Kuttner Quartet and was premièred on March 6, 2022. The piece is dedicated to Ellie Schwartzman and Josh Coleman, in gratitude.

B

sul tasto, molto flautando *pp cantabile*

senza vib., sul tasto, molto flautando *pp*

senza vib., sul tasto, molto flautando *ppp*

sul tasto, molto flautando *ppp*

normale, vibrato *p espr.*

21 *poco accel.* (♩ = 60) *allarg.* sul pont.

normale, vibrato *mf*

mp espr. normale, vibrato *mp*

normale, vibrato *p espr.*

(increase bow pressure)

f

C expansive (♩ = 60)

pp *ppp* *p*

pp *ppp* *mf* *pp* *ppp* *sf*

pp *ppp* *mf* *pp* *ppp*

pp *ppp* *mf* *pp* *ppp*

31 *mp espr.*

mp *pp* *ppp* *mp espr.*

mp *pp* *ppp* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

mp *pp* *ppp* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

35

D

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. It features triplets and dynamic markings including *mf*, *f pesante*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ppp*.

39

gradually gaining momentum (♩ = 52)

Musical score for measures 39-44. The score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. It includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *p warm, molto vibrato*, *pp*, and *ppp*.

accel.

45

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, *p*, *p < sf*, and *f molto espr.*. Performance instructions include *sul pont.* and *sub. sul pont.*

(accel.) ----- (♩ = 66)

ⓔ suddenly broad *e*² spacious (♩ = 56)

49

norm. *f molto espr.* *mf* *sf* *ppp*_{sub.}

(increase bow pressure)

sul pont. norm.

II I II I

52

p *ppp* *p* *ppp*

bow freely

6 6 6 6 6 3

54

p *ppp* *p* *ppp*

ppp *p* *ppp* *p*

bow freely

ppp *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

58

F

sul pont.

Musical score for measures 58-61. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. Dynamics include *p*, *ppp*, *mp*, and *mf*. A "sul pont." instruction is present above the top staff.

62

norm.

Musical score for measures 62-65. It features four staves. Dynamics include *mf*, *ppp*, *mp*, and *p*. A "sul pont." instruction is present above the second staff.

66

rit.

sul tasto, molto flautando

Musical score for measures 66-69. It features four staves. Dynamics include *ppp*, *pp*, and *pp no cresc.* A "sul tasto, molto flautando" instruction is present above the second and third staves.

70

G a tempo

rit.

Musical score for measures 70-73. It features four staves. Dynamics include *ff* and *pp*. A "rit." instruction is present above the top staff.

74 **a tempo**

(a bazy, pitchless sweep)
bridge

The musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The first two measures (74-75) feature sustained chords in the bass clef staves, marked "senza vib.". The last three measures (76-78) feature melodic lines in the treble clef staves, marked with dynamics *pp* and *f* and the instruction "(a bazy, pitchless sweep) bridge".

Orinda, CA/Bloomington, IN
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PERUSIA