GREG SIMON (2012)

All Roads Lead Two Ways
for String Quintet

Composed for the 2012 Melos Music New Music Recital and Ensemble39
All Roads Lead Two Ways
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

PROGRAM NOTES

Life could be, and often is, likened to a road. The human experience is one of walking at a fixed, invariable pace, down an unmapped highway whose twists and turns we don’t know and can’t foresee. The sights we see, the other travelers we may encounter: all are unpredictable, and are perhaps the greatest joy of walking the road. This metaphor is virtually omnipresent in our lives, from philosophers and poetry to car commercials: life is a road, a highway, a trail. But seldom mentioned in these commercial metaphors is the downside to our forward motion: ephemerality. There is only one route on the road: forward, towards the new and the unknown. The terrain behind us, no matter how precious, is a forgotten relic, necessarily discarded so that we may see the road ahead.

But all roads, by their very nature, lead two ways. A traveler on a physical road changes its direction simply by turning around and walking the other way. Maybe, by doing so, he gains a new perspective on, or admiration of the scenery he had left behind. In life, perhaps the other way down the road is memory; our ability to recall and relive may grant us the ability to turn around and glimpse our past. It can bring back past joys, resurrect lost friends, and revive forgotten love; but only for a second, for time and distance blur the terrain into nothingness, and we move ever forward.

All Roads Lead Two Ways is about memory, but it is not about memory as we are forced to experience it. In this piece, I envision a kinder version of memory: a version with no decay and no loss, where time cannot strip away memories which we hold dear. I envision a world where revisiting one’s past - reliving a precious moment, even one separated from us by years - is simply a matter of turning and walking back down the road.
For Jodi

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Distant and Spacious $\frac{\text{cresc.}}{\text{dim.}} = 62-64$

solos, poco rubato

mp looking into the distance

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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

hesitate... poco meno mosso, but growing back to tempo

p growing expressive

p growing expressive

p growing expressive

mp cantabile
All Roads Lead Two Ways

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Piu Mosso $\frac{j}{q} = 66-68$

$mf$ passionate and flowing
All Roads Lead Two Ways

gaining momentum

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Fluidly $q=62$

poco rall.
All Roads Lead Two Ways

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mp

shimmering

p

mf

sub. p

mp

f

p

mf

sub. p
All Roads Lead Two Ways

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Piu Mosso \( \frac{q}{6} = 66-68 \)

no harmonic
All Roads Lead Two Ways

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.
All Roads Lead Two Ways

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Broadly $\frac{1}{2}$ 60

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

$f$ with abandon $mp$

$f$ with abandon $mp$

$f$ with abandon $mp$

$f$ with abandon $mp$

$f$ with abandon $mp$