Piano Quintet No. 1
"Scenes from Childhood"

I. Kites at Seal Rock
II. Jordan and Nadia
III. Tag!
Piano Quintet No. 1: Scenes from Childhood

Any movement may be played separately, or the three may be played together.

I. Kites at Seal Rock
   Age 12

When I was 12, my family left our home in the San Francisco Bay area for a new home in Oregon's Willamette Valley. A distance of just under 600 miles meant a complete change in environment, inhabitants, and pace of life. Separated from everything I'd grown up knowing, I looked desperately for some sort of constant. I found it on the Oregon Coast, on a beach called Seal Rock.

The beaches of the Oregon Coast are much different from those along the Central Coast of California, from the sand to the terrain to the surf. However, they both have strong winds, and people on both coasts tap those winds to fly big, colorful kites. These kites were the constant I was looking for. On our trips to Seal Rock I would watch kite-flyers, mesmerized by their kites' endless interplay between motion and stasis. They reminded me of the kites I'd seen on California beaches, and helped to ease my sense of foreignness in my new surroundings.

Time went by, and I eventually felt at home in Oregon; but the kites' vivid display on the windy beaches was always part of what that home meant. Even now, I think of Seal Rock whenever I see a kite dancing against the sky, and once again, I feel at home.

II. Jordan and Nadia
   Age 4

A child growing up in America in the late 1980's was surrounded by frightening things, from the events leading to the Gulf War to the Patrick Purdy massacre not far from our house in Stockton, CA. Each day I would see another horror on TV, in the newspaper, or at school. I might have gone to bed many nights with visions of these dangers in my mind, were it not for Jordan and Nadia. Jordan and Nadia were two characters in my parents' bedtime stories, brother and sister. Named for some preschool friends, they would take all sorts of adventures; both to familiar places and surreal, magical worlds.

These stories became some of my earliest memories, much stronger than the daily threats from near and far. Whenever I had trouble falling asleep, Jordan and Nadia were ready with a new quest, whether it was to Chile, to the supermarket or to the moon. My dreams as a child were filled with Jordan and Nadia's colorful world, quieting the unrest and fear that was all too easy to find in the daily news.

III. Tag!
   Age 8

Like many kids, games and sports were a large part of my life. My friends and I would play baseball, football and soccer; and occasionally we'd opt for our ill-advised invented sport, "bumper bikes." Of course, sometimes simpler games were called for, and I never tired of suggesting that ultimate childhood pastime, tag. The rules were simple -- the person who's "it" tries to tag someone to pass that dreaded title onto them -- but the game was always intense, quick, and often a bit dangerous. Any child who wandered by could join in simply by joining the pack of screaming children in avoiding "it." Our games could last for hours, the game would consume us, with no one wanting to be the last "it" of the afternoon. But when we tired out, we promised to pick up the game later; so no one was ever "it" last, just until next time. The thousands of chapters of our endless game of tag combine to one of my favorite childhood scenes: a slow start to a pickup game on a sunny day, that quickly gets intense and fills with laughter, aggression and close calls, all coupled with the unshakeable joy and exuberance of an 8-year-old Californian kid.
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I. Kites at Seal Rock

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Piano Quintet No. 1 - Kites at Seal Rock
more distant

slowly coming forward

always gentle and moving, like a breeze
always gentle and moving, like a breeze

Piano Quintet No. 1 - Kites at Seal Rock
III. Tag!

\[ \text{\( \frac{1}{4} \) Lighthearted and Brisk} \]

Violin 1

\[ \text{pp} \]

Violin 2

\[ \text{af} \]

Viola

\[ \text{p} \]

Cello

\[ \text{pizz.} \]

\[ \text{f} \]

Piano

\[ \text{pp with brewing excitement} \]

Fed.

\[ \text{F} \]

\[ \text{p} \]

\[ \text{slowly growing excited} \]

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Piano Quintet No. 1 - Tag!
Piano Quintet No. 1 - Tag!

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

 mf growing heavy

 mf as before

arco

as before

sim.
Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

Ped.

Piano Quintet No. 1 - Tag!