

Dark Star Rising

PETER TERRY

Instrumentation

Full Score
Violin I
Violin II
Violin III (Viola T.C.)
Viola
Cello
Bass
Piano (Rehearsal Only)

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About the Composer

Peter Terry (b. 1957) is an award-winning composer, conductor and educator. He holds a bachelor's degree in trumpet from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in music composition and theory from Bowling Green State University, and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in music composition and theory with an emphasis in computer music synthesis and applications.

Dr. Terry's compositions have been performed and broadcast worldwide and appear on numerous contest and festival required music lists. With over 40 works published by Carl Fischer, BRS Music, Dorn Publications and Music for Percussion, Inc., Dr. Terry is sought out for commissions by numerous chamber groups, choirs, concert bands and orchestras. He is

accomplished at every level of ensemble writing from beginner to middle school, high school and advanced ensembles. His music is colorful, dramatic, and characterized by a rhythmic verve and a deep lyricism that shows the influences of American popular music, world music and American classical composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber. He is particularly proud of the emphasis on playability and melodic interest for all the instruments in his compositions.

Dr. Terry has served on the faculties of the University of Texas at Austin, Cal State-Los Angeles, Bowling Green State University and Bluffton University. He served on the composition/theory faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp.

Dark Star Rising

A dark star is a theoretical star composed of dark matter. It can be seen only in the context of how its gravity affects other objects. Like a mysterious villain in a movie, the star influences everything around it, but is otherwise unseen.

The introduction serves as a refrain in the piece, reappearing in measure 29 and 57. It is aggressive without ever getting out of control and should be strongly articulated.

The main theme begins in measure 13, is immediately varied in measure 21 and measure 42 and 49. It is effectively being acted upon by the opening material and inherits some of the eighth note swagger of the intro throughout the piece. It is bold but more legato than the intro, except for the eighth notes that appear in the varied forms.

The slow melody in measures 34-42 is loosely related to the main theme, but its character should be very fluid and legato. This is the heart of the piece and should be treated as a chance to work on expressive line and dynamic growth that lead to the restatement of the theme in measure 42.

I hope you find this piece a great resource for teaching articulations, dynamics, and both dramatic and lyrical playing



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Dark Star Rising



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