



new dawn

Lawrence Moss

1. **Ligeti Light** (2014) 6:45
Kadisha Onalbayeva, piano
2. **New Dawn** (2001) 10:02
Kiev Philharmonic, Arnold Winston, conductor

3. **Voyagers** (2018) 4:34
Composers' Choir, Daniel Shaw, conductor

Moments (2018)

4. **Calmly** 1:57
5. **Whimsically** 0:59
6. **Aria** 1:42
7. **Back and Forth** 0:42
8. **Vivace** 1:48
Eric Kutz, cello
Audrey Andrist, piano

9. **Grand is the Seen** (2014) 2:49
Danielle Talamantes, soprano
Sarah Eckman McIver, flute
Joel Ayau, piano

Gamelan for Flute and Percussion (2013)

10. **Quietly** 3:16
11. **Nighttime** 2:05
12. **Dancetime** 2:04
Sarah Eckman McIver, flute
Lee Hinkle, percussion

De Profundis (2015)

13. **Solemn** 1:22
14. **Lament** 1:41
15. **Ringling** 1:43
Khasma Piano Duo: Ashlee Mack, Katherine Palumbo

Dreams by Day and Night (2014)

16. **On Viewing a Waterfall** 2:43
17. **On Drinking Wine** 4:21
18. **On Hearing a Flute on a Spring Night** 2:44
Danielle Talamantes, soprano
Sarah Eckman McIver, flute
Lee Hinkle, percussion
Joel Ayau, piano

5 Bagatelles for Percussion solo (2012)

19. **Drumming** 2:37
20. **Still** 1:42
21. **Bulgar** 1:25
22. **Duet** 2:55
23. **Encounters** 2:56
Lee Hinkle, percussion

Inside, Outside: 4 Haiku for Our Time (2016)

24. **Inside car...** 0:53
25. **Inside room...** 1:08
26. **Inside earth...** 0:58
27. **Inner turmoil...** 1:34
Danielle Talamantes, soprano
Sarah Eckman McIver, flute, piccolo

—69:26—



New Dawn is the title of the second piece on this album (which is the second of my works, after **New Paths**, to be brought out by Innova Recordings). “**New Dawn**” also marks a new stage in my life. I retired a little over four years ago, after teaching for nearly 56 years at Mills College, Yale, and the University of Maryland, College Park.

Now, at the ripe old age of 91, I feel the new dawn of a life devoted entirely to music composition and family.

The first fruit of my newfound leisure is this album. Other projects include a pairing of my early opera, **The Brute**, with an even earlier opera (**La Serva Padrona** in my translation and re-orchestration) in a production by World Oceans Opera (worldoceansart.org). Another work-in-progress is an entire album devoted to new piano music written expressly for Steinway Artist, Kadisha Onalbayeva.

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Ligeti Light reflects both a debt to the late great Hungarian composer György Ligeti as well as an indulgence in my love of punning. It starts out as a typical Ligeti étude might, with tight imitative gestures, but it quickly finds its own path.

New Dawn is a tone poem for orchestra based on five Tang Dynasty poems, each the subject of a movement. The movements proceed without interruption. The first one, *Spring Dawn*, finds the poet guiltily waking up after dawn (I wish I were so virtuous!). In *Early Morning Meditation* the poet proceeds shortly after dawn to meditate in his favorite bamboo grove. *Passing Beauties* is a light satire on court ladies showing off their beautiful gowns in an afternoon pageant. *Evening Flûte Song* proceeds on the day's journey into night while the last poem, *Saying Goodbye*, finds our poet sorrowfully parting from an old friend at midnight.

Voyagers is a setting for chorus and piano of two late poems by Walt Whitman. In the first, *Sail Out for Good*, the poet imagines death as an adventure, eagerly journeying to the Great Unknown! In the second setting, *One Thought Ever at the Fore*, "all the peoples of the globe... are bound in this journey to the same destination." Here the great poet of Democracy says we are all - both black and white - literally in the same boat on that final journey.

I Sail Out for Good, Eidolan Yacht!

Heave the anchor short!
raise main-sail and jib - steer forth!
Little white-hull'd sloop, now speed on really deep waters,

Depart, depart from solid earth
No more returning to these shores . . .

II One Thought Ever at the Fore

One thought ever at the fore -
That in the Divine Ship, the World, breastring Time and Space,
All peoples of the globe together sail, sail the same voyage,
Are bound
to the same destination.

— Walt Whitman: *Goodbye my Fancy*

Moments for cello and piano is the most recent piece on this album. The five movements take us through five contrasting moods. From "Calmly" we proceed to "Whimsically" to the heart of the piece, an extended duet: "Aria". Cello and piano trade gestures in "Back & Forth" leading to a vivace finale.

Grand is the Seen for soprano, flute and piano returns to Whitman, this time to his poem of the same title, celebrating the seen and the unseen ... "so multiform, puzzling, evolutionary." Whitman - the poet of Democracy and Darwin!

Grand is the Seen

Grand is the seen the light to me - grand are the sky and stars
Grand is the earth, and grand are lasting time and space,
And grand their laws, so uniform, puzzling, evolutionary

But grander far the unseen soul of me, comprehending,
endowing all those,
Lighting the light, the sky and stars, delving the earth
sailing the sea,
(What were all those, indeed, without thee, unseen soul?
Of what amount without thee?)

More evolutionary, vast, puzzling, O my soul!
More uniform far - more lasting, thou than they!

— Walt Whitman: *Old Age Echoes*

Gamelan for flute and percussion is my version of one of my favorite sounds: that of the Balinese gamelan - a unique orchestra made up of bronze chimes and gongs. On Track 10 we hear its typical quiet, undulating sound. Track 11 introduces the flute as a nighttime visitor, while things liven up a bit with Track 12, "Dancetime."

De Profundis features the gifted Khasma Piano Duet. *De Profundis* is Latin for the Greek *Khasma* (*chasm*), which is the name of a canyon in Colorado where the two pianists like to go hiking - hence the name of their duet. Track 13 ("Solemn") combines playful and solemn moments, while Track 14 is a Lament. Track 15 ("De Profundis") quotes a Mass by one of my favorites - the

Dreams by Day and Night for soprano, flute, percussion, and piano is a setting of three poems by my favorite Chinese poet, the Tang Dynasty's Li Bai. On Track 16 the poet views and comments on a famous waterfall. Track 17 has the drunken poet urging us to drink even more wine. Legend has it that he committed suicide (?) by trying to kiss - while drunk - the moon's reflection in a lake and fell overboard! On Track 18 a distant tune on the jade flute reminds the dissolute poet of his lost youth.

I On Viewing a Waterfall

Far away a distant waterfall...
Flies down three thousand feet....

Don't you see those sad white locks -
At dawn black silk -
At dusk white snow?

Let's drink together, as if there were no morrow

Let's let our pleasures drown that ancient,
endless
sorrow!

Who could not be moved
By tender thoughts
Of home?

Five Bagatelles for solo percussion allows virtuoso percussionist Lee Hinkle to show his stuff. "Drumming," shows off the sounds of various kinds of drum beaters. "Still" is just that, while "Bulgar" explores off-beat Balkan rhythms. "Duet" brings in the marimba in a duet with vibraphone. "Encounters" is a summing-up of the previous four movements.

Inside, Outside: 4 Haiku for Our Time is a setting of four poems, beginning with my musings on seeing kitten pawprints on my car's windshield (Track 24: "Inside car..."). Track 25 muses about approaching darkness ("Inside room"...) while "Inside Earth..." (Track 26) wonders what happens inside our planet? Finally Track 27, "Inner turmoil...", laments what we — on this planet — are doing to it and ourselves. This is the great question of our lives.

Outside rain
drizzle, sprinkling

On the windshield
kittenpaws
creeping

Softly

//
Inside room
quietly reading

Outsidedarkness
slowly rising

Fills the evening's
vaulted sky

///
Inside earth
a molten rising

Outside mountain
a fiery river

Bursts forth
coursing down
swiftly

To the sea

IV
Inner turmoil
sparks and shouting

Outer tranquil
earth's quiet turning

Mankind's chaos
heaven spinning

How
will it end?
— LKM, 2016

PERFORMERS

Kadisha Onalbayeva kadishaonalbayeva.com
Kiev Philharmonic filarmonia.com.ua/en/
The Composer's Choir composerschoir.net
Eric Kutz murasakiduo.com/musician-bios
Audrey Andrist audreyandrist.com
Danielle Talamantes danielletalamantes.com
Sarah Eckman McIver sarahflute.com
Joel Ayau kennedy-center.org/Artist/A119561
Lee Hinkle leehinkle.com
The Khasma Piano Duo khasmapianoduo.com

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