

Lament for Solo Viola. Program Note

Lament for Solo Viola was written for Helen Callus, my colleague at UC Santa Barbara, immediately after I finished my opera *Twelfth Night*, which is joyous and almost entirely melodic and tonal. Afterwards, I wanted to express a very different world of write something very much from another world, expressed partly through the using such instrumental techniques as playing very near the bridge, over-bowing, and quarter tones, evoking rage and despair. This is set off against two long contrasting melodies, both very quiet and peaceful.

It begins suddenly, with two loud chords separated by long silences; more silences set off very short, quiet gestures, eventually leading into a sequence of broken chords growing ever faster and louder, leading into a more continuous fast, agitated section. Then, more silence leads into the long first melodic section, a quiet spiritual. The work continues along these lines, ending with a series of soft single plucked notes separated by silences and fading away.