

F Horn

Commissioned for Debra Ann Fialek

NIU MIUSIC

(Still life with Castle and Lagoon)

for horn and piano

Jan Bach

1999

Moderately, but assertive (♩ = c. 68)

F Horn

1

6

9

12

14

17

f

mp

cresc.

Quickly (♩ = c. 7)

mr

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69 *f mf f mf*

71 *cresc. f*

73 Somewhat faster (♩ = c. 112) Stopped *f sfz f sfz*

77 Open *mf*

80

83

86

90

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Commissioned for Debra Ann Fialek — an independent woman, a virtuoso hornist, and my beautiful daughter — upon her graduation as a Master Horn Performer.

— *Jerry Fialek*

NIU MIUSIC (Still Life with Castle and Lagoon) was commissioned by Jerry Fialek as a gift for his daughter's graduation from the San Francisco Conservatory as a Master Horn Performer. The work is intended to recall her undergraduate experience at Northern Illinois University, a school strongly associated with her family and the composer of this work.

What began as a rustic idyl recalling the corn fields of Illinois ended up, as so often happens in the composition process, as something completely different: a virtuoso work of seven minutes length in which Deb's considerable gifts as a hornist could be demonstrated through such devices as long, slurred phrases, extended range, quick double-tonguing passages, wide dynamic contrasts, and over-all performance flair.

The work is cast in a modified sonatina form. The first group includes "castle-like" fanfares alternating with exuberant horn passages of a declamatory nature. This moves into a quiet, lyrical second theme based on the Northern Illinois University Alma Mater, a work composed by Wilbur A. Smith (1914-1999), a former professor in the NIU School of Music.

The sonatina form, in its broadest sense an abridged classical sonata form without a development section, is, in this case, modified in a different way. Instead of the expected exposition followed immediately by a recapitulation, the exposition of this work is followed by an extensive development of the first theme materials, and then concluded with a return of the lyric second theme. There is no recapitulation of the first theme as is normally expected, aside from a brief coda based on its materials.

NIU MIUSIC was composed in the spring of 1999 and presented to Debra Ann Fialek by her father, Jerry, at her graduation from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music on May 22, 1999.