

Arlo

for Viola and Piano

for Everett Ross Ekins

by
Vanessa McClintock

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For Everett Ross Ekins

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The initial concept and inspiration for Arlo came to me in the first week of May 2018 while visiting my daughter, Emily, and newly born son, Everett, in Arlington, Virginia.

I finished this short work on May 31, 2018, at 7:06pm. When I closed the page I noted the time, and it felt complete.

It remains a mystery to me why exactly I so named this piece, rather than Everett or Emily, or even Arlington. It has almost a forlorn character to it, perhaps melancholy to some; neither was my intent, as that was a joyous time.

It came first as the open two bars in the piano. Their piano was sitting next to the stairwell and as I was about to go upstairs to my room, I felt the impulse to stop and play the chords. I continued upstairs, when to a desk and wrote it down, pencil to paper—just like the old days. Then I entered the notes into my notation program and sketched out the rest of the chord progression, this time one mouse-click at a time. The idea for the melody came shortly after, and in the next few weeks I completed the piece.

For such a short work, these are disproportionately long program notes. Still, the piece has a soft spot in my heart, and I feel like sharing.

The original version was for violin, but after a while I felt the sonorous depth of the viola more closely matched the character of the piece. I made the violin part available for download.

The viola, in my opinion, is a too often overlooked choice for solo instrument and expressiveness.

Performance time: approximately 2'20"

Vanessa McClintock

Time: 2'21"

Arlo

Viola and Piano

Vanessa McClintock

(Original version for violin and piano)

for Everett Ross Ekins

With feeling (♩ = 72)

The musical score is written for Viola and Piano. It begins with a tempo instruction "With feeling (♩ = 72)". The key signature has two flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) introduces a violin part in the upper stave, which plays a melodic line. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues the violin and piano accompaniment. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score is marked with measure numbers 5, 9, and 13.

17

21

25

29

34

38

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