

Peter McKenzie Armstrong

Downstream

for two pianos

Opus 40

Edition Ottaviano Petrucci

NOTES

COMPOSITION

This work traces the river path of my elder daughter's funerary ashes from Fairy Falls, Minnesota, to the Gulf of Mexico. It's main elements, two simultaneous perpetual-motion lines, are mapped from separate north-to-south and west-to-east readings of the river flow progression. Punctuating these are irregular dual-voiced motifs, timed/articulated to match the entry points of passing Mississippi tributaries and scored for the players alternately according to entry flow direction.

PERFORMANCE

Accidentals This notation style is LilyPond's "forget": all accidentals apply exactly once; consequently, all unmarked noteheads are naturals.

Articulation A slur's final note must be audibly detached from what follows. Bracketed names are models for their note motif performance, not texts to be sounded as well.

Fingering For the repeated-note sequences of Piano I, a tremolo style (4-3-2-1, etc.) is advised.

- PMA

Duration: ca 1 minute

in memoriam Eve Kaitlin Armstrong

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I

II

Allegro (♩ = 108)

tremolando
p

legato passim
p

articolato

[Fairy Falls, MN] [Black] [Upper Iowa]

3

[Wisconsin] [Maquoketa] [Wapsipinicon] [Rock]

cresc.

cresc.

5

[Iowa]

mp

mp

7

[Illinois] [Missouri] [Cuivre] [Meramac] [Kaskasia] [Big Muddy]

8

9

[Ohio]

cresc. - - - - -

cresc. - - - - -

8

11

[Hatchie]

mf *cresc.*

13

[White] [Arkansas]

mf *cresc.*

[Big Black]

15

Two systems of musical notation. The first system consists of two staves: a bass staff on top and a treble staff on the bottom. The bass staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and the treble staff with *f*. Both staves contain a series of eighth notes with various accidentals. The second system continues the piece, with the bass staff marked *molto decresc.* and the treble staff also marked *molto decresc.*. The notation includes slurs and accents over the notes.

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Two systems of musical notation. The first system consists of two staves: a bass staff on top and a treble staff on the bottom. The bass staff begins with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The second system continues the piece, with the bass staff marked *pp*. The notation includes slurs and accents over the notes. At the end of the second system, there is a bracketed annotation: [Gulf of Mexico].