

LEVZURIN

“Long Island Sound”

for viola and chamber orchestra
(1998 / rev. 1999)

1999

LJOVA MUSIC (ASCAP)

NEW YORK

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"Long Island Sound "
for viola and chamber orchestra (1998)

(from the program notes to the premiere)

Though I had the whole summer to compose "Long Island Sound" in, I didn't start on it until I had returned from Italy in mid July. The sketches for the piece were written over several hours at our summer home near Riverhead, in Long Island. When I began writing the sketches, I wanted to get a sound out of the orchestra, which reminded me of my long walks down the beach there, which have inspired so many many wonderful things...

Very wishful thinking! As soon as I started listening to the ideas that came from that day, they started driving in very different directions.

The piece is in a form of a suite, combined of little movements, surrounded by an idea which comes at the beginning and the end of the piece...

There is, of course, a variety of more things that I can say about my new piece, but, I'd rather you just listen to it, and form your own associations, notions, and so on. Enjoy!

First Performance:

October 11th, 1998; The Great Hall at Cooper Union University, New York City

Lev Zhurbin, viola

Denis Segond, conductor

Manhattan Virtuosi

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Notes on the Cadenza

The Cadenza for "Long Island Sound" should be improvised by the soloist himself, and, if possible, at the time of performance. For my performance of the piece, I wrote down two things - a beginning and an end of a possible cadenza. I include them here, but, by all means, the performer doesn't need to include them at all.

One thing to keep in mind: the viola does not play a whole lot throughout the piece, and so, the Cadenza probably should be as the focal point of the Solo Violist's involvement. You can "say" whatever you want - be virtuosic, reflective, a little of both... Your choice. For me, the choice might depend on the hall I'm playing in, and so, I tend not to make any decisions before I am already playing. Still, it's *your* cadenza, enjoy it!

-Lev Zhurbin, January 31st, 1999, New York

Possible beginning and ending for the Cadenza:

Beginning:



etc.

Ending:



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Orchestration:

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B \flat

Bassoon

Percussion (1 player)

Triangle

Cowbell

Snare Drum

Piano

Solo Viola

Strings

Performance time: approximately 12 minutes, depending on the length of the Cadenza.

This score has been slightly revised after the first performance.