

Alec Roth – NOCTURNE

for viola and string orchestra; or viola and piano; or violin and harp; or violin and piano
original version for **Viola and String Orchestra** commissioned by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.
first performed by Robert Smissen (viola), ASMF/Roth, St Martin in the Fields Church, London, 28 September 2000
revised version: Catherine Marwood, Scottish Ensemble/Clio Gould, Mitchell Hall, Aberdeen, 4 Oct 2001
version for **Violin & Harp**: Philippe Honoré, Alison Nicholls, Athenaeum, Bury St Edmunds, 22 May 2001
version for **Violin & Piano**: Adam & Catherine Summerhayes, Purcell Room, London, 27 November 2002
version for **Viola & Piano**: Jonna Inge, Scott Mitchell, RSAMD, Glasgow, 28 May 2004

COMPOSER'S NOTE

The starting point for this piece was the painting [Lake Keitele](#) by the Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela (1865-1931) which is in the permanent collection of the National Gallery, London.

The painting is quite small and perhaps rather unremarkable at first glance - a lake; reflections of the sky; a forested shoreline in the distance; no human figures to disturb the calm. But despite its simplicity, the picture, like the lake, has hidden depths. Gallen-Kallela believed that the landscape was animated by the ancient spirits of Finnish mythology. In *Lake Keitele* the tranquil blue and silver reflections are disturbed by steel-grey bands of paint representing the wake left by the boat carrying the hero Väinämöinen across the water.

The calmness of the lake, the surface movement of ripples and reflections, the echoes of the passing hero still resonating in the landscape - all these suggested interesting musical ideas to explore. However, I have not attempted to make a musical "version" of the painting, but merely used it as a point of departure.

DURATION

ca. 11 minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Viola and String Orchestra (with optional bass drum)

Nocturne is also available in versions for:

Viola and Piano (using the Short Score)

Violin and Harp

Violin and Piano

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Full Score; Solo Viola Part; Orchestral Parts

Short Score: for rehearsal purposes, and for performances by Viola and Piano

For the Violin version: Violin Part; Harp Score; Piano Score

SCORE SAMPLE

Click here to see sample pages of the [Full Score](#)

RECORDING

The version for violin and harp is recorded by Philippe Honoré and Alison Nicholls on Meridian Records ["Strings Attached" \(CDE84456\)](#)