

# *Two Pages for Kara*

*~ in loving memory of Kara Williams, 31 August 1992 – 17 March 2010*

*for viola*

*≈ 7'*

*by Anthony Green*

## *Preface*

In the summer of 2007, on Long Island, sitting next to me, turning my pages for a performance of Fauré's *Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 15*, was a bubbly, bright, honest young lady who had her life in front of her. Kara Williams died months before her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, leaving behind a questioning family and friends, including myself. The tragedy of lost innocence is always a severe loss, especially when the deceased had a heart and spirit of giving. This piece was composed for her brother – a wonderful violist and a great friend of mine. The work is an expression of love and honor for a flaming light that was extinguished too early, written through the voice of the instrument that her big brother plays and my favorite instrument of the string family. I am so glad that I got to meet her, despite her short stint on this Earth, and I know that she is still around giving as much as she can in her afterlife as she did while she was physically here.

## *Performance Notes*

This solemn work requires a deep concentration, a honorable, slow pace, and as much clarity as possible. While the whole piece can be performed in a standard, concert manner, it can also be performed with low lighting, in front of a projected slideshow of Kara. Much of what is in the work is symbolic – the initial gesture represents an unsettling finality that those who knew her may feel now upon thinking about her life. It is a finality that is full of confusion, questioning, and helplessness through a lack of control. This feeling eventually settles dubiously into the pizzicato section, which represents her bouncy spirit. This music eventually turns into a representation of her tragic passing, and the reactions that erupted during the long process of her hospitalization, her death, and informing others of the tragedy. The Coda contains harmonics that represent her steady spirit still circulating around those who knew and loved her, combined with a building, eighth-note gesture that is cut short, representing the nature of her life. This piece is the first of two works that will be dedicated to Kara's memory.

The half note at the end of measure 40 is to be executed with a scratched forte attack, immediately followed by a normal subito piano (no scratch). The artificial harmonics are meant to produce the pitches that are two octaves above the fundamental. The natural harmonics in the Coda are to be executed by touching the node located at the fourth from the open C and G strings.



for Gregory Williams, dedicated to the memory of his sister Kara

# Two Pages for Kara

Very slow, giving thought to each quarter note; quarter ~ 30 - 38

A. Green

Viola

con sord.  $\nabla$

*ff* *p* *f* *p* *f*

sul pont. ----- norm. sul tasto -----

11  $\nabla$

*p* *mf* *sfz* *p* *ff* *ff* *pp* *ff*

poco accel.

18  $\nabla$

*pp* *ff*

poco sul pont. ----- norm. pizz. senza sord. *p* *ppp* *sim.*

Pressing

allargando molto

start very slow

poco a poco accel. e cresc.

24

*p* *mf* *ff*

