

MICHAEL KIMBER

La Colombe

(The Dove)

for viola and piano



originally composed for viola, two pianos, and strings
as a movement to feature the violas in
Camille Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*

Soundpoint Music
Iowa City, Iowa USA

A note from the composer...

When Wayne Thelander, director of the West High School Orchestra of Iowa City, asked whether I might consider composing a movement to feature the violas in his orchestra's upcoming performance of *Carnival of the Animals* (since Saint-Saëns neglected to spotlight our favorite instrument), my first thought was, "What animal should the violas represent?"

Several of my colleagues offered interesting responses to this question, the most amusing and tantalizingly intriguing being the echidna (in case you didn't know, that's a burrowing, egg-laying mammal, native to Australia and New Guinea, having a spiny coat, slender snout, and a sticky tongue for catching insects).

I thank Nathalie Cruden, principal violist of the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra, for that very clever idea. However, as I ruminated further on the matter, I decided that violists – at least most of the ones I have known, including Nathalie – are generally peace-loving beings, and what creature better represents peace than the dove?

In its premiere, *La Colombe* (The Dove) was performed after the movement about birds. Ogden Nash being unavailable to write a verse for the occasion, I took the task upon myself:

The Dove would never toot her horn
to get her point across,
Much less resort to violins*
to show the world who's boss.
With olive branch and gentle cooing,
Playing viola is what she'd be doing.

* "Violins" could be pronounced with slight accent on the first syllable to resemble the word "violence."

It is my wish that *The Dove* may become for violists what *The Swan* is for cellists (though perhaps not what the *Donkeys* or the *Elephant* are for violins and basses, respectively if less than respectfully). For this reason, I have made this arrangement for viola and piano, so that we will not have to wait for the next performance of *Carnival of the Animals*, hoping that a conductor as enlightened as Wayne Thelander will see the wisdom of featuring the viola section!

Incidentally, anyone familiar with Saint-Saëns's zoological masterpiece will recognize some similarity of the melody in the middle section of *The Dove* to the principal theme of the finale of *Carnival of the Animals*. I mention this fact even though the resemblance is, as far as I am aware, purely coincidental and fortuitous.

Please do not photocopy this music. Additional copies, as well as the orchestra score and parts, are available promptly and at a ridiculously reasonable price from the composer:

Michael Kimber
12 N. Mount Vernon Drive
Iowa City, IA 52245-3707
319 339 7232
mkimber@centurylink.net
http://m_kimber.tripod.com

La Colombe

(The Dove)

Michael Kimber

Duration:
2'15" without repeat
3'00" with repeat

Single piano part
for rehearsal or for
performance by one
violist with piano.

The Dove would never toot her horn
to get her point across,
Much less resort to violins
to show the world who's boss.
With olive branch and gentle cooing,
Playing viola is what she'd be doing.

Peacefully ♩ = 56

Viola

Piano

Vla.

Pno.

Vla.

Pno.

(optional repeat)

The Dove

16

Vla. *mf* *poco cresc.*

Pno. *mp espr.*

23

Vla. *pp* *pp* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *p*

29

Vla. *p*

Pno. *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.*

35

Vla. *rit.*

Pno. *dim.* *rit.* *pp*

Viola

For the West High School Orchestra, Iowa City, Iowa
Wayne Thelander, director

La Colombe

(The Dove)

Michael Kimber

Peacefully ♩ = 56

pp < mp

6

11 (optional repeat)

16 mf

21 poco cresc. pp pp

26 mp

31

36 2. 3 1 rit. dim.