

In Search of Stillness

*For
Solo Piano*

(2020)

Michael Kahle

Program Notes:

Written in 2020, *In Search of Stillness* is inspired by the desire in society today to find mental clarity. The piece opens with twinkling passages to create a meditative mood, but quickly the energy builds with increased rhythmic action until an appearance of the chorale-like melody that is the heart of the piece. The energy builds until the music reaches the extreme ends of the piano at the loudest possible dynamic, as a call to the chaotic nature of today's world. After a short pause, the piece ends with the performer choosing between a set of chords to play in any order, for any duration, only ending the piece when they feel the chord is totally at rest.

In Search of Stillness

for Piano

Michael Kahle

Freely ♩ = 54

pp meditative

p

accel.

mp *pp* *mf*

rit. *a tempo*

pp *mf* *f*

22

p sub.

26

mf

accel.

Slightly Faster ♩ = 70

28

f *chorale-like*

accel.

With Forward Motion ♩ = 80

32

8va

(8va)-----

36

ff

Measures 36-39. Treble clef staff has a dashed line at the top labeled (8va). Bass clef staff has a long slur over measures 37-38. Dynamics include *ff* and piano markings.

(8va)-----

40

Measures 40-44. Treble clef staff has a dashed line at the top labeled (8va). Bass clef staff has a long slur over measures 41-43. Dynamics include piano and piano markings.

(8va)-----

45

Measures 45-49. Treble clef staff has a dashed line at the top labeled (8va). Bass clef staff has a long slur over measures 46-48. Dynamics include piano and piano markings.

50

p *dim.* *pp*

Measures 50-53. Treble clef staff has a dashed line at the top labeled (8va). Bass clef staff has a long slur over measures 51-52. Dynamics include *p*, *dim.*, and *pp* markings.

Tempo I ♩ = 54

Measures 54-59. The piece begins with a piano introduction marked *ppp*. The right hand features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *ppp*, *p*, *mf*, and *p*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a slur.

Measures 60-62. The right hand continues with a melodic line, marked *mf* and *pp*. The left hand features a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. A slur is present over the right hand's melody.

Measures 63-65. The piece is marked *accel.* (accelerando) and *rit.* (ritardando). The right hand features a melodic line, marked *mf*. The left hand features a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. A slur is present over the right hand's melody.

Measures 66-68. The piece is marked *a tempo* and *pp*. The right hand features a melodic line, marked *pp*. The left hand features a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. A slur is present over the right hand's melody. A first ending bracket is marked with a '1.' and a repeat sign.

69 *2. a tempo*

pp *mf*

73

p sub.

77

8va

80 *accel.*

accel.

Moving Forward ♩ = 80

82

rit.

86

Slowing Down ♩ = 60

90

94

8^{va}-----

98

(8^{va})-----

102

(8^{va})-----

106

30" - 1:00" Play chords in any order for any duration.
 Whatever chord feels most at rest to you as the performer, end on.
 Make this decision in performance.

109

Pedal between chord strikes