

CONDUCTOR'S SCORE

As Summer Was Just Beginning

(Song for James Dean)

by

Larry Daehn

transcribed for string orchestra by

Thomas Stone

INSTRUMENTATION

1 - Conductor
15 - Violin I

15 - Violin II
6 - Viola
3 - Cello I

3 - Cello II
5 - Bass

Daehn
PUBLICATIONS

PROGRAM NOTE

*I liken him to a kind of star, or a comet that fell through the sky,
and everybody talks about it yet today. — Julie Harris*

*He seems to capture that moment of youth, . . .
where we're all desperately seeking to find ourselves. —Dennis Hopper*

*He is not our hero because he was perfect, but because he perfectly represented
the damaged but beautiful soul of our time. —Andy Warhol*

James Byron Dean (1931-1955) experienced the brightest and briefest movie career ever. In sixteen months he made three movies: *East of Eden*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *Giant*. Only the first had been released when he was killed in a car accident at the age of 24. His death, on September 30, 1955, sparked an unparalleled outpouring of sorrow. For three years thereafter, Warner Brothers received more letters to him than to any living actor. Thousands still travel to the small town of Fairmount, Indiana, to see the farm where he grew up and to visit his grave. His familiar image appears worldwide on posters and T-shirts. He has been the subject of many books, songs, television documentaries, plays, movies, and hundreds of magazine articles. More than forty years after his death, James Dean is still a hero to his own and to succeeding generations who keep his legend alive.

People were robbed of him. Whenever you're robbed of something, it lingers with you —Martin Landau

A bronze bust of James Dean by artist Kenneth Kendall stands near Griffith Park Observatory in Los Angeles. A Greek inscription appears on the right shoulder:

ΘΕΡΕΟΣ ΝΕΟΝ ΙΣΤΑΜΕΝΟΙΟ

The inscription translates “As summer was just beginning.” This sentiment, from a painting by John La Farge, is a Greek epitaph lamenting the premature death of a young person. I chose it as the title for this piece.

The main melody is loosely based on a traditional folksong from the British Isles, “The Winter it is past, and the Summer’s here at last.” I chose it because Dean’s Quaker heritage is rooted in England, Ireland, and Scotland, and because this simple bittersweet song about summer seemed appropriate for remembering James Dean.

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The style of the piece is *sostenuto* and *cantabile*. A forward-moving, effortless song-like feeling is desired. Observation of the metronome marking of 72 to the quarter should keep the piece from becoming too slow. The *a tempos* at measures 25, 33, and 49 may be performed *poco piu mosso* if desired. In fact, the piece may be performed with greater *rubato* than indicated by the score. The performers are invited to add their own intuition and musical judgment to the performance.

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—Larry Daehn

As Summer Was Just Beginning

Conductor
LDP-7023-00

(Song for James Dean)

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Andante con moto (♩ = 72)

The musical score is arranged for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello I, Cello II, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked *Andante con moto* with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody in the violins and violas, with cellos and bass providing harmonic support. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo). The second system (measures 5-9) shows the melody continuing with dynamics of *dim.* (diminuendo) and *cresc.*. A double bar line is present at the end of the first system.

13 *rit.*

Vln. *p cresc.* *dim.*

Viola *p cresc.* *dim.*

Cello *p cresc.* *dim.*

Bass *p cresc.* *dim.*

2 4

17 *a tempo*

Vln. *div.* 4 *p* *div.* *pp*

Viola *pp*

Cello

Bass

4 2 21 2 4 2 rit.

Vln.

Viola

Cello

Bass

p

p

p

25 *a tempo*

Vln.

Viola

Cello

Bass

unis.

poco cresc.

div.

p

(vla.)

H3

poco cresc.

p

poco cresc.

p

poco cresc.

p

p

poco cresc.

p

37

Vln. *cresc.*

Viola *cresc.*

Cello *cresc.*

Bass *cresc.*

41

Vln. *cresc.*

Viola *cresc.*

Cello *cresc.*

Bass *cresc.*

45 *rit.*

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

49 *a tempo*

Vln. *dim.* *p*

Viola *dim.* *pp*

Cello *dim.* *p*

Bass *dim.*

53

Vln. *mp*

Viola

Cello

Bass

65

rit.

Largo

Vln. *cresc.* *p*

Viola *cresc.*

Cello *cresc.*

Bass *cresc.*

69

Vln. *poco cresc.* *mp* *p* *dim.* *pp*

Viola *p* *poco cresc.* *mp* *p* *dim.* *pp*

Cello *p* *poco cresc.* *mp* *p* *dim.* *pp*

Bass *p* *poco cresc.* *mp* *p* *dim.* *pp*