

## Program Notes: "Soaring"

As you listen to this piece, imagine you are a bird soaring through the sky. As the piece begins, you spread your wings and rise into the air. As the lower notes emerge at measure 13, you pick up speed and altitude. As the B theme takes the relative major and most eighth notes are replaced by sustained tones from measures 21-28, you glide, surveying the ground below you as trees sway in the wind, lakes shimmer in the bright sun, and people and animals walk on the surface. As the song slows and returns to the original C minor key, you begin your descent; and in the unison of the last note, you gracefully land in the treetops.

That is where the piece takes me. Wherever it takes you, I hope it connects you to the divine around and within us in the special way that music can.

While composing this, I enjoyed playing with the inner voices of the right hand, for example from measures 17-28 and 37-39. In some places, such as the D in measure 17, these voices were so close to the melody that they might be confused with it. Also, from measures 29-37, I wanted the left hand to play two octaves higher, but from measures 35-36 I had to shorten these harmonic tones in the right hand because they overlapped with the same notes in the left hand. Ideally, I'd like to write those inner notes into a dedicated cello part, which would resolve these issues while also adding more warmth and a richer tone. I hope to find a cellist who can collaborate and record this with me in the future. I also enjoyed creating dissonance with 7<sup>th</sup> intervals and resolving them with the octave chord at the end.