

# **K'asa**

**K'asa**, for violin and piano.

Duration: 17 minutes.

K'asa (meaning "open space on a mountain" in quechua language) is a personal journey inspired not by visual impressions but by the sheer sense of vastness that one can experience among the mountains and valleys of the Andes. It is relevant, though, to point out that this piece has no references to the music being practiced in that region. Instead, I chose to channel my impressions through my own musical language.

The formal proved to be the most challenging aspect. Constantly growing from delicate textures and further reaching climatic peaks, these wide ranges of expression require a systematic yet flexible approach towards the organization of sound material. The whole harmonic world is based on a set of two minor chords separated a minor second from each other and constantly traveling upwards along the chromatic scale. A wide variety of relationships have been derived from these set of pitches, exploiting these interactions effectively. In K'asa, mind and feeling work together through music to express that, which can be understood only by direct experience.

This piece received its world premiere during the final round of the 'ALEA III 2003 International Composition Competition' at the Tsai Performance Centre in Boston University, USA, on September 27, 2003 by Krista Reisner, violin and Yuyiko Shimazaki, piano. It was awarded the First Prize.

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