

Dream Chaser

for Piano Solo

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Performance Note

- Inside the piano: Pluck the string inside the piano with the pad of index finger for a greater resonance.
- Cluster:  Include all black and white notes.

Programme Note

Dreams are like a parallel world—mysterious, vague, captivating, and sometimes a little eerie. I’ve always been a big dreamer, and the details and scenes from past dreams often replay vividly in my mind. It got me thinking: What exactly are dreams? Where do they come from? And even how could I live with them? This music comes straight from my own dream stories and experiences composed as a four-act musical journey that mirrors the stages of sleep—NREM I, II, III, and REM, where dreams occur.

The piece begins with delicate, shimmering sounds, evoking the gradual drift into sleep. As the sleep cycle deepens, the music swells in intensity, mimicking the complexity and wonder of the dreamscapes. The piano’s full range is explored, from soft, distant tones to bold, dynamic contrasts, echoing the emotional and sometimes chaotic nature of dreams.

Act X

This act represents the first stage of sleep. The music flows slowly and smoothly, mirroring the rhythm of calm breathing. Without a time signature, the piece reflects the unpredictability of falling asleep. Echos of themes from Act 1 float subtly in the background, hinting at the dream journey to come.

Act 1: Dream’s Habitat

As sleep begins, the higher register of the piano paints the first stroke of the dream’s landscape. Intricate patterns bring a soft, ethereal atmosphere, where the mind begins weaving the threads of the dream. The time signature provides structure, the music retains an air of fluidity, allowing the dream to unfold naturally.

Act 2: Night Creatures

The fairylike night creatures appear in this act. They are vivacious and mystic, with quicken tempo and playful rhythms. The music becomes more vibrant and dynamic. Triplets add layers of complexity, conjuring a surreal yet captivating interplay between the dream’s inhabitants.

Act 3: Dream Chasers

In the last stage where the dream is most active, the low register and fast tempo are used for contrasting sounding experience with previous act. A powerful contrast emerges between both hands- left hand maintaining a meter of 7/8, while the right hand moves in 3/4, creating a sense of instability and urgency. The interlacing music builds an unstable but also breathtaking dream world. This act is the most structured, with a more traditional development leading to a dramatic climax, evoking the feeling of chasing a fleeting dream just before waking.

The composition concludes as dreams often do – suddenly and unpredictably leaving a lingering sense of wonder.

Duration: Approx. 8’20”

Dream Chaser

for piano solo

Xiang Li

Act X

approx. 20-25s

8va-----

ppp

inside the piano
pluck the string

ppp *mp*

soft and quietly

inside the piano

ppp *p*

approx. 18-20s

8va-----

inside the piano

approx. 15-18s

p *pp* *ppp*

inside the piano
pluck the string

ppp *mp*

soft and quietly

approx. 18-20s

pp *mf* *p*

inside the piano
pluck the string

Act 1: Dream's Habitat

A ♩=20, dreamy

pp *p* *p* *ppp*

pp *p*

8va 8vb

(8) *p* *ppp*

pp *p*

3

8va-----

mf *pp* *p*

mp *pp* 8vb

mf

p *mf* *mp*

p *pp* *f*

(8)

p *mf* *f* *mp*

FREEZE

FREEZE

pp

pp

pp

pp

ppp

ppp

Act 2: Night Creatures

B $\text{♩} = 36$, immersive

8va

ppp

start gently and quietly

pppp

mf

(8)

mf

ff

f

8va

p *ppp* *p*

This system contains two measures. The first measure features a piano (*p*) accompaniment in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes and a melody in the left hand. The second measure features an 8va (octave) melody in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes, a *ppp* (pianissimo) accompaniment, and a melody in the left hand. A crescendo hairpin is shown under the 8va melody.

ppp *p* *mf*

ppp *p* *mf*

This system contains two measures. The first measure features a *ppp* (pianissimo) accompaniment in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes and a melody in the left hand. The second measure features a *mf* (mezzo-forte) accompaniment in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes and a melody in the left hand. A crescendo hairpin is shown under the right-hand accompaniment.

ppp *mf* *ppp* *p*

ppp *p* *ppp* *p*

This system contains two measures. The first measure features a *ppp* (pianissimo) accompaniment in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes and a melody in the left hand. The second measure features a *mf* (mezzo-forte) accompaniment in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes and a melody in the left hand. A crescendo hairpin is shown under the right-hand accompaniment.

8va

p *mf* *p*

ppp *p* *mp* *f*

This system contains two measures. The first measure features a piano (*p*) accompaniment in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes and a melody in the left hand. The second measure features an 8va (octave) melody in the right hand with triplets of eighth notes, a *mf* (mezzo-forte) accompaniment, and a melody in the left hand. A crescendo hairpin is shown under the 8va melody.

First system, measures 1-4. Treble staff features triplets of eighth notes. Bass staff features eighth notes. Dynamics: *ppp*, *mp*, *pp*.

rit. (♩=26)

Second system, measures 5-8. Treble staff features triplets of eighth notes. Bass staff features eighth notes. Dynamics: *ppp*.

♩=26

Third system, measures 9-12. Treble staff features triplets of eighth notes. Bass staff features eighth notes. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*, *pppp*. Includes a cluster marked "cluster FREEZE (including all the white and black notes)" and "as quiet as possible". A double bar line is marked "8vb".

Act 3: Dream Chaser

C ♩=82, flowing

Act 3: Dream Chaser, measures 13-16. Treble staff is mostly empty. Bass staff features eighth notes. Dynamics: *pp*, *p*, *pp*.

First system of the musical score. The right hand (treble clef) begins with a rest, then plays a series of chords marked *ppp*. The left hand (bass clef) plays a continuous eighth-note accompaniment, marked *ppp* and *mp*. A double bar line is present after the first measure.

Second system of the musical score. The right hand features a melodic line with *8va* markings and a series of chords marked *mp*, *p*, and *f*. The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment, marked *sf*, *pp*, *sf*, and *mf*. A double bar line is present after the first measure.

Third system of the musical score. The right hand has a melodic line with *8va* markings and chords marked *mp*, *f*, and *pp*. The left hand's eighth-note accompaniment is marked *fff*, *pp*, *fff*, *fff p*, *f*, and *pp*. A double bar line is present after the first measure.

Fourth system of the musical score. The right hand features a melodic line with *8va* markings and chords marked *f* and *ff*. The left hand's eighth-note accompaniment is marked *f*, *pp*, and *sf*. A double bar line is present after the first measure.

First system of musical notation (measures 1-3). The score is for piano. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the upper register, marked *pp*. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern, also marked *pp*. A *Red.* (Reduction) line is present below the left hand. The system concludes with a *ppp* dynamic marking.

Second system of musical notation (measures 4-6). The right hand continues with the triplet eighth-note pattern, marked *p* in measure 4 and *pp* in measure 5. The left hand maintains the eighth-note pattern, marked *pp* in measure 5 and *mf* in measure 6. A *Red.* line is present below the left hand.

Third system of musical notation (measures 7-9). The right hand features triplet eighth-note patterns, marked *ppp* in measure 7 and *mf* in measure 9. The left hand continues with the eighth-note pattern, marked *pp* in measure 7, *sf* in measure 8, and *mf* in measure 9. A *Red.* line is present below the left hand.

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 10-12). The right hand features triplet eighth-note patterns, marked *p* in measure 10, *mf* in measure 11, and *pp* in measure 12. The left hand continues with the eighth-note pattern, marked *pp sf* in measure 11 and *mf* in measure 12.

First system of musical notation for piano. The right hand features a complex melodic line with many triplets and slurs. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, and *sf*.

Second system of musical notation for piano. The right hand continues with intricate triplet patterns. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *pp*, and *mp*.

Third system of musical notation for piano. The right hand features a melodic line with triplets. Dynamics include *ppp* and *p*.

Fourth system of musical notation for piano. The right hand has a melodic line with triplets. The left hand includes some rests and slurs. Dynamics include *p*.

poco rit.

The musical score is written for piano on a grand staff. The tempo marking is *poco rit.*. The piece features several triplet passages in both hands, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has two triplet sections, each consisting of six groups of eighth-note triplets. The left hand has one triplet section with six groups of eighth-note triplets, followed by a continuous triplet of sixteenth notes. The score concludes with a final measure containing a cluster of all white and black notes on both staves, indicated by a fermata and a note with a cluster symbol. The text 'cluster (including all the white and black notes)' is written above and below the cluster.