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Locked Bag 5000 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Tel: +61 2 9935 7900

Email: apra@apra.com.au

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Australian Music Centre Ltd, PO Box N690, Grosvenor Place NSW 1220

Tel: +61 2 9935 7805 | Fax: + 61 2 9935 7702

Email: info@australianmusiccentre.com.au

Full Score

Alice Chance

String Quartet No. 2
SUNDRIED

Nicknamed "A Sundried String Quartet"

Mov. 1 **EXPOSURE**
Mov. 2 **DRIBBLE CASTLE**
Mov. 3 **TOMATOES**
Mov. 4 **ALOE VERA**

For the Acacia Quartet

2019

Revised February 2023

Duration:
Approximately 17 minutes

Composer's Note

What does it mean to leave music out in the sun?

As a person with synaesthesia, when I hear music, I see colours, shapes, and textures. In this work, I started with the idea of music gradually drying, burning, fermenting, and wrinkling in the sun. What would that sound like? What would that sound look like?

I like to think of the composition process as picking raw ingredients from the vines and trees of our brains, and bringing them out into the air and onto the page. From there, the ideas are influenced by aspects of our environment, the light, the air, the sounds and people around us. All these things have an impact on the idea's growth and evolution. Each of the four movements treats this relationship between music and sunlight differently, while a few key motifs thread them all together.

Movement. 1 EXPOSURE

This movement is a bit like a fermentation timelapse. Beginning with translucent musical material—diaphanous light sounds with glinting harmonics, intervals of fourths and fifths, occasionally disorienting additive metres—it slowly introduces dissonance, gradually drying and fermenting into a spicy and surprisingly tasty, crisped ending.

Movement. 2 DRIBBLE CASTLE

In this movement, the music mirrors the process of building a sandcastle by 'dribbling' wet sand into a pile. After many drizzles of wet sand, the result is a bulbous, elegant structure. But the builder of a dribble castle needs to be careful, as a drop of wet sand in the wrong place can send the castle tumbling spectacularly into ruins.

Movement. 3 TOMATOES

While composing this movement, I sat myself down in front of the piano with a punnet of cherry tomatoes and a variety of accompaniments such as basil leaves, mint leaves, lemon juice, and feta cheese. As I tasted each combination, my fingers searched across the keys of the piano to find the perfect corresponding harmony or cluster. That is how I found the pitch material for this movement. I hope it transports the listener to a sunny balcony surrounded by cherry tomato plants.

Movement. 4 ALOE VERA

It is my aim for this movement to be a cooling balm after all the sunlight and heat of the previous movements. I began with the goal of writing an exhalation, a lullaby, something refreshing like a huge glass of water or falling into bed after a day in the sun. I quickly realised that there was a dear friend in my life for whom I dearly wished this kind of reprieve and healing. Before I knew it, a song was pouring out. I decided that I'd like the first violinist to sing the secret lyrics to this song in her head while she played, letting them inform her phrasing and articulation. This movement is for anyone in need of that wonderful feeling of aloe vera on the skin after a day in the sun.

Acknowledgements

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for the Acacia Quartet
String Quartet No. 2 | SUNDRIED
1. EXPOSURE

Slow, still and glassy. Too bright. (♩ = 44)

Alice Chance, 2019
Rev. 27.2.23

Violin 1
mp sempre
non vib.
legato with lots of bow
II

Violin 2
mp sempre
non vib.
Sounding pitch
II

Viola
mp sempre
non vib.
Sounding pitch
legato with lots of bow
IV

Violoncello
mp sempre
Sounding pitch
legato with lots of bow
II