

Yourselves at Nightfall

Composed by Howard Kenty

For Piano

Composition Notes:

Yourselves at Nightfall is to me a piece of transition, exploring the changing inner moods one experiences as darkness descends and day turns to night. I began the piece through this mindset, intending it to be a short exercise exploring more traditional areas of harmony, counterpoint, rhythm, and thematic development. As I began developing the motifs, manipulating them, and placing them in different musical contexts, the piece began to expand naturally into a somewhat longer work.

Sections of this piece owe a small debt of inspiration to a sequence of three chords from the last section of Debussy's *La Cathédrale Engloutie*, which I had been exploring concurrently with this composition. In the course of my experiments with these chords, it became apparent that, with some alterations, the sequence would fit in a very organic manner with the material I had composed thus far. The chords appear here only in altered form, reversed to become a descending figure (m. 25), conforming to the idea of descent I had already established as a major motivic element, and are further manipulated in later sections. Additionally, movement in parallel fourths is explored, along with parallel thirds and sixths, often in more dissonant contexts than that in which the chords initially appear.

Yourselves at Nightfall makes use of musical elements in a very intuitive manner, shifting meters as appropriate, and moving through pentatonic, Lydian, whole tone, Dorian (often with a minor 2nd), and chromatic modes, blurring tonal distinctions and colors by way of the sustain pedal. Though the piece contains sections that recur, their appearance does not follow any standard structural tropes, so that the form is in some ways closer to that of a through-composed work. By the use of these devices, *Yourselves at Nightfall* attempts to translate the ways people change throughout life into an expansive musical landscape.

- Howard Kenty

On the included recording:

Piano: Andrew Ranaudo

Recorded on Dec. 13th, 2009 (Brooklyn, NY), currently unreleased.