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Leyla and Mejnun for String Quartet

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Leyla And Mejnun For String Quartet

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the University of New Orleans in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Music in The Department of Music

by Roula Baaklini

Teaching Diploma in Musicology. Holy Spirit University, 1987

May, 2008
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INSTRUMENTATION

2 Violins
1 Viola
1 Cello


ABSTRACT

*Leyla and Mejnun* for string quartet relates a classical Middle Eastern love story. A young poet named *Qays Ibn Al-Mulawwah* fell in love with his cousin Leyla. He went mad when her father prevented him from marrying her.

The music consists of four interwoven movements. The *Prelude* is based on a motif in F# played by the first violin, then by the second violin on Bb, and finally by the viola and cello altogether, respectively in D and Ab. It ends with a final restatement of the motif on the second violin with pizzicato on the three other instruments. The *Prelude* is followed by a dramatic transition that leads to the *Love Theme* which is treated as a theme and variations. The third movement is a *Scherzo* based on a Middle Eastern dance called Dabke. It ends with an *Epilogue* whose materials stem from the *Prelude.*
Scherzino \( \dot{=} 110 \)  
Dance Of The Mad Poet
\[ \text{p subito} \]
VITA

Roula Baaklini was born in Beirut, Lebanon. She received a B.A. in 1986 and a
Teaching Diploma in Musicology, from Holy Spirit University in 1987. She
went on to study piano with Dr. Shirine Maaluf and music theory with Dr.
Jamal Abul Hosn in the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music,
where she received a Baccalaureate in Piano Performance in 2002 and a B.A. in
Harmony in 2004. In 2005, Ms. Baaklini obtained a scholarship from the
University of New Orleans to pursue a M.M. in Composition with Dr. Jerry
Sieg. Her most recent works include a Sonata for Wind Quintet, Three Songs
for Mezzo Soprano and Piano, a Toccata and Fugue for piano, as well as Leyla
and Mejnun for String Quartet.