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
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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
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Instrumentation.................................................................................................................. iii
Abstract................................................................................................................................. iv
Leyla and Mejnun for String Quartet..................................................................................... 1
Vita........................................................................................................................................ 53
INSTRUMENTATION

2 Violins
1 Viola
1 Cello
ABSTRACT

*Leyla and Mejinun* 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*.
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.