AMERICANVIOLASOCIETY

MOOK NYUM (A MOMENT OF SILENCE) FOR SOLO VIOLA

Jeong Eun Park (Ann Park-Rose) (1979-)



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Mook Nyum (Moment of Silence) Jeong Eun Park (Ann Park-Rose)

Composed in 2001

Mook Nyum is a Korean phrase that translates to "Moment of Silence." This work has two major inspirations: the Cello Suites of J. S. Bach and the events of September 11, 2001.

I think about when a feeling overflows, it often expresses itself outwardly—certain feelings are so strong that something has to come outside. If you stub your toe, you cry out. If you find something very funny, you laugh. If you find something deeply moving, a tear (or more) is shed. The time after September 11 was a time of great feeling for most people in North America, and this piece is an overflowing of that time.

It is in 5 short movements with brief silence in between each. It was composed as an improvisation and is best performed with that in mind. In the first movement, the viola speaks, "Let me tell you a story, a sad story." As the piece goes on, the viola tells the story of 9–11, almost like in a eulogy. The tragedy is described: the story of the violence, buildings breaking down, gushing wind, and falling—all physical things servings as a metaphor of human emotions: being hurt, being angry, coming back to reality, calming down, and then the later stage of working it out; a very slow process.

The last movement is the true moment of silence, to be played as slowly as is practical because when you are suffering from something, it takes time. You feel like you are suffocating. You know things may get better, but you are not yet there. And so, with an understanding and acceptance of the emotions, you hold on to hope and willfully walk to a place of light. The walk is painful . . . but I don't believe healing just happens, just like that. It is sought out.

This work is the seeking out of healing.

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