
"Wildfire Ashes"

Music composition, score, and music score video by Jonathan Cline, jcline@ieee.org.

Written as a 1-week assignment in Orchestration class.

Stepping outside your front door into the spring morning, all surfaces are covered in a thin blanket of white powder. A light stream of white flakes drift in descent from the sky and swirl in little whirlwinds before coming to rest. The quiet beauty is as striking as the realization that this is the ash of nearby wildfires, not snow, and the fires may break over the neighboring canyon's ridge line, depending on the mood of the winds. As the wild fires actively torch thousands of acres of hills and nearby neighborhoods, furiously leading nature through a cycle of birth, death, and restoration, there is opportunity to start anew and build again; yet the emotional and practical cost is high.

This musical composition, a binary form, begins in consonance, using the parallel movement of melodic lines in piano and electric guitar to reflect the beauty of the initial scene (mm. 1 - 16). Harmonic analysis, in roman numerals, is shown in the score. There is a lack of solid resolution due to unstable harmony; this creates an essence of mystery and wonder, through two repetitions. The feeling of wonder begins to break at the B section, as contrary motion evokes whirlwinds and short staccato notes are like falling ash (mm. 17 - 25). The light dissonance of the contrary lines and extended chord, with finishing cymbal roll, flavor the final cadence as bittersweet and continuous.

<https://youtu.be/2Cq33zCOsXY>

"Wildfire Ashes" Original Score (Metal Lead Guitar, Piano, Cello, Drum Kit)

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