

More About SPRING SOLILOQUY

This short violin solo, later transcribed for several other string and woodwind instruments, dates from 1986, when I was teaching English at a university in Harbin, China. During winter break, my family and I took an unescorted trip around the country, visiting several “off-the-tourist-trail” locations. We were able to do this because we were living and working in the country, so we had official “work cards” and documents from our university that opened doors normally closed to foreign tourists. We had also learned enough Mandarin (unfortunately now long-forgotten) to get by without a translator travelling with us.

So it was that Chinese New Year found us in the Southwestern city of Kunming, and on that day, I jotted down several original themes in which I tried to capture the style and spirit of the local music. I later used two of them in a pair of companion solo-with-piano pieces, of which this is the first. The other is **Remember the Rainbow** for flute and piano.

Spring Soliloquy is the only piece of music that I actually completed while in China. The occasion was the wedding of one of my Chinese colleagues, who was also an amateur violinist. Since it was just meant to be a wedding gift, and not a part of the ceremony, we didn't play it at her wedding...although we did have some informal fun with it away from public ears.