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## Dreaming Cities: A Piano Trio

*Damon Ferrante*

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**Damon Ferrante : Dreaming Cities: A Piano Trio** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dreaming Cities: A Piano Trio:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. exciting and deeply meaningful! By BarBI came across Dreaming Cities: A Piano Trio while looking for some music to fill out one of my trio's programs for next season. We are playing Smetana and Haydn and needed something more modern to round out the performance. As a string player, I am an advocate for contemporary music; however, my trio wanted a piece that balances innovative ideas with melodic writing. We were all very happy to find this trio by Ferrante. It is an exciting and deeply meaningful piece. The first movement is the most florid. There are some great transitions where Ferrante uses pizz. figures and rolled chords for some very interesting and unusual effects. Near the end of the movement, fast, double trills in the piano create an orchestral sonic backdrop, while the strings play upper register melodies. This is my favorite part! The music really soars. The second movement is hauntingly beautiful. The theme is varied and turned into a piano accompaniment. In

my opinion, the movement has a feeling that evokes loss or sorrow. Most of the melodies fade and disappear into the musical fabric. At the end of the movement, the piano plays 4 "A"s in the middle and upper range. This is very effective and dramatic. On several occasions, I have heard audience members gasp in a kind of wonderment at this moment. The third movement has a fun, syncopated quality, which changes the mood of the piece and creates a dance-like atmosphere. In the middle, there is an effective transition, where the Stravinsky-like rhythms transform into an upwardly spiraling climax. The fourth movement is my favorite (maybe because of a long cello solo). The movement contains a lot of "cantabile" writing that is quite expressive and emotionally intense. To my ears, it feels like this movement is the conclusion of the trio, in many ways. The fifth movement reminds me of a coda. It is spirited and full of leaps. Plus, it draws things to a close with a bang. *Dreaming Cities: A Piano Trio* is written in a style that is, in many ways, tonal, though there is a lot of chromaticism. Damon Ferrante has a strong sense of musical architecture, drama, and texture. I can't think of a place in the trio where the music is just coasting or vamping. The music always feels like it is going somewhere. Sometimes, our trio has to "build in" the drama in a work. Very happily, with this piece, we just need to get it rolling and it does the rest. I would highly recommend this piece for chamber musicians who are looking for new and exciting repertoire for upcoming concerts. One caveat, though, some of the music is very flashy. So, the whole piece is probably best suited for players at a more advanced level. Some of the movements (the slow ones: 2 and 4) could be performed by most players. Individual movements could also be excerpted or performed as encore pieces.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Positive music  
By Guglielmo I would associate *Dreaming Cities* with an extremely positive feeling. The music promotes memories of happy and serene moments, as well as excitement. This work by Ferrante really allows moments of pure reflection on individual life path, helping to see positive aspects, even when they seem to be unreachable or even undetectable. While working with this music I was also able to identify a "melancholy presence", which could be better described as a positive nostalgic sensation, almost like traveling back in time to discover new or forgotten meanings of childhood. In my opinion, as a future psychologist, both playing and listening to this music may help musicians and listeners to relax while focusing on their inner world, in order to promote an higher level of well being.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sound of an expressive landscape  
By ylnotes Two years ago, I attended a performance of *Dreaming Cities* set to beautiful choreography by SYERN Modern Dance. I left the concert thinking how well the music and dance complimented each other! The underlying lyricism strongly defines the character of the music. The expressive and dramatic *Dreaming Cities* is a five-movement piano trio by Damon Ferrante, who has taken inspirations from imaginative literary works of Italo Cavino.

Inspired by Italo Calvino's, *Invisible Cities*, this new piano trio by composer Damon Ferrante (2014 Simkins Award Winner) is a thrilling chamber music work! Performed throughout the United States and Europe, *Dreaming Cities: A Piano Trio* (violin, cello, piano), serves as an excellent companion piece on concert programs featuring standard-repertoire works. \* Tim Smith of the Baltimore Sun calls Ferrante's music "focused and colorful...with an unexpected, decidedly poetic touch." \* The violin and cello parts are included.

The Baltimore Sun calls Ferrante's music "focused and colorful...with an unexpected, decidedly poetic touch" and "ebullient and full of shifts of direction." "If the tune has the elegance of traditional opera, the harmonization is very modern as the vocal lines climb and descend the melodic staircases that Ferrante has constructed for them." Baltimore City Paper "Damon Ferrante is a star on the rise." The Ridgewood News "From the first few notes in the opening movement, one is immediately captivated; thrown into a musical landscape of mystery and passion, its melody satiates every perceptual organ in the body and the mind...and, without question epitomizes the intrigue of human expression, taken to its deepest depths by Ferrante." Stephan Dalal, WKCR-FM "Damon is a musical storyteller. He has a narrative gene that allows him to write music like a novelist." Daniel Mark Epstein, award-winning music writer  
From the Author  
The Violin and Cello parts are included.