

Dark Side of Venus

Score is transposed
Performance Time c. 7:05

For SATB saxophone quartet

KEN DAVIES

Andante ♩ = 86

Bb Soprano Saxophone
mf

Eb Alto Saxophone
mf

Bb Tenor Saxophone
mf

Eb Baritone Saxophone
mf

5

I.
II.
III.
IV.

10

I.
II.
III.
IV.

Musical score for measures 14-17, featuring four staves (I, II, III, IV). The music is in 4/4 time and includes sixteenth-note patterns, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *mf* and *p*. Measure numbers 14, 15, 16, and 17 are indicated at the start of each staff.

Musical score for measures 18-22, featuring four staves (I, II, III, IV). The music includes a key signature change to one flat and a time signature change to 3/4. It features a *p* dynamic marking and a *solo* instruction. Measure numbers 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are indicated at the start of each staff.

Musical score for measures 23-26, featuring four staves (I, II, III, IV). The music includes a key signature change to two flats and a time signature change to 3/4. It features a *mf* dynamic marking, a *dim.* instruction, and a *3* (triple) marking. Measure numbers 23, 24, 25, and 26 are indicated at the start of each staff.

Program Notes

Dark side of Venus, the planet? Or dark side of Venus, the goddess of love, beauty, sex, fertility and prosperity? Astronomers mention that it appears just after sunrise or sunset as the morning star or evening star. They mention the planet's thick, heavy atmosphere, mostly carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid. Gustav Holst (The Planets) called Venus "the bringer of peace." Some psychology writers do not refer to Venus' dark side as a bringer of peace, but rather Venus (Greek Aphrodite) as a sociopathic woman, seemingly very charming, but emotional and manipulative, dangerous and destructive.

About the composer

Wisconsin native Ken Davies holds an M.A. in trombone from Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro and an M.M. in composition from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he was a Cecil Effinger Fellowship composition student. During the 1970s, he was trombonist with Gabriel's Brass, a 12-piece jazz-rock show band based in Orlando, Florida, often appearing at Walt Disney World. He has worked as a commercial arranger and session producer for nationally broadcast record and television projects. Since 2002, he has resided in south Mississippi where he teaches brass, and runs his publishing company, Kenvad Music (see at www.kendavies.net). His works include acoustic and electronic pieces that have been performed nationally at conferences and festivals by Society of Composers, Southeastern Composers League, Electronic Music Midwest, Electroacoustic Barn Dance, Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers, International Trombone Festival, PARMA Music Festival and concerts. Honors include ASCAP awards, the Mississippi Performing Artist Fellowship in Composition for 2006-2007 and 2012-2013, grants from Mississippi Arts Commission and a listing on the Mississippi Artist Roster. His Three Pieces for bass trombone and piano won the 2009 Eastern Trombone Workshop National Composition Competition. He is the 2013 Mississippi Music Teachers' Association commissioned composer. He has collaborated with his poet wife Judy to create a CD of poetic soundscapes featuring narrated poetry and electronic soundscapes. Their studio cats Little Fluff and Darius Meow supervise each piece of new music.