

Kristofer Spike (born 1959) is an Australian composer/pianist now living in Chicago. Many of his compositions are inspired by his concern for environmental issues and his love of nature and the outdoors. He has recorded five CDs of his chamber music compositions and also had his music played regularly on ABC Classic FM and other fine music stations over the past 15 years.

West Highland Wander is a musical memory of a walk the composer did with his daughter in 2018 through the Scottish Highlands. The first part of the walk is along Loch Lomond and flashes of the famous folk song of the same name punctuate this section of the piece. The slower middle section is more serene and expresses the restfulness of evening camps while the third section describes the majesty of approaching Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles.

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West Highland Wander can be played by a range of musical instrumentation – as a string quartet, a woodwind quartet and a mixed quartet, according to player and instrument availability.

Player 1: violin, flute, oboe, plus separate part for clarinet in B^b

Player 2: violin, flute, oboe, plus separate part for clarinet in B^b

Player 3: Viola, French horn F, plus separate part for clarinet in B^b

Player 4: Violoncello, bassoon, plus separate part for bass clarinet

Composer's performance notes

To make a smooth transition to the 12/16 meter change at bar 64 it could be helpful to start counting from bar 62 as if it were in 3/4 time i.e. 3 quarter note (crotchet) beats per bar, then maintain that beat for the change to 12/16 i.e. the quarter note beat will be the same as the dotted eighth note (quaver) beat of the 12/16. In 12/16 time three eighth notes will be counted the same way that you would count quarter note triplets in 4/4 time. Throughout the piece 2 dotted sixteenth notes (semiquaver) are used as an alternative notation for indicating duplets.

A reference recording of this piece can be found on YouTube, search *West Highland Wander*.

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WEST HIGHLAND WANDER

KRISTOFER SPIKE

♩. = 104

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

I
II
III
IV

pp

p

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

I
II
III
IV

mp

mp

mp

mp

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 ♩. = 84 30 31 32

I
II
III
IV

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

p

pizz.

mp

Along the shores of Loch Lomond

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

I
II
III
IV

mf

mp

mf

mp

p

p

mf

mp

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

Musical score for measures 43-52. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features four staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), and IV (Cello/Double Bass). Measure 43 starts with a *mp* dynamic. Measure 47 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 51 has a *p* dynamic. Measure 52 has a *mf* dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.



53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

Musical score for measures 53-61. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features four staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), and IV (Cello/Double Bass). Measure 53 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 54 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 55 has a *pp* dynamic. Measure 56 has a *p* dynamic. Measure 57 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 58 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 59 has a *p* dynamic. Measure 60 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 61 has a *mf* dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.



62 63 64 65 66 67

$\text{♩} = 115 (\text{♩} = \text{♩})$ A tempo

Musical score for measures 62-67. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features four staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), and IV (Cello/Double Bass). Measure 62 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 63 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 64 has a *p* dynamic. Measure 65 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 66 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 67 has a *mp* dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations. A tempo change is indicated at measure 66.



68 69 70 71 72 73

$\text{♩} = 115$ A tempo $\text{♩} = 115$

Musical score for measures 68-73. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features four staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), and IV (Cello/Double Bass). Measure 68 starts with a *mp* dynamic. Measure 69 has a *p* dynamic. Measure 70 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 71 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 72 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 73 has a *mp* dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations. A tempo change is indicated at measure 70.