

Insomnia Etudes

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: June 3-4, 2017, Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music.
Commission by the California Music Center for the 2017 Irving M. Klein International String Competition.

Duration: 5' each

Instrumentation: Solo violin; viola; cello

Insomnia Etudes was commissioned by the California Music Center for the 2017 Irving M. Klein International String Competition. The three separate pieces – 2:30am for solo violin, 4am for solo viola, and 5:15am for solo cello – each have their own particular character, but no precise indication is given about how exactly the insomniac in question feels about being awake. Is she or he frustrated? Excited? Still awake? Awake again? Is 4am late, or early? These etudes are invitation (to both performers and audience alike) to consider what goes on in one's mind in this most intimate moment, lying awake in bed while the rest of the world is sleeping.

– Lisa Bielawa

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