

Stealing from Birds – A Violin Concerto
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Violin Soloist and Concept Design by Holly Mulcahy

Stealing From Birds is an innovative violin concerto that bridges the raw, untamed melodies of nature with human creativity. Inspired by the haunting beauty of bird songs, this piece transforms their fleeting calls into an expansive symphonic journey where the violin becomes both an imitator and an interpreter of the wild.

Beyond the music itself, *Stealing From Birds* is audience engagement on a deeper level. It offers orchestras an entirely new way to captivate audiences, spark curiosity, and break down traditional barriers between concert halls and the natural world. This concerto invites listeners to experience classical music through an unexpected lens, where bird songs, wilderness, and human artistry collide. With rich storytelling potential, multimedia possibilities, and broad appeal, it opens doors to new audiences, fosters deeper connections, and creates a powerful entry point for education and outreach. Whether through interactive pre-concert talks, nature-inspired programming, or partnerships with environmental organizations, zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, and birding clubs, this work redefines what an orchestral experience can be—vivid, immersive, and electrifyingly fresh.

This concerto unfolds in five movements or chapters, each capturing a unique facet of nature's sonic landscape.

Chapter 1: Dawn's Chorus

The concerto opens with a delicate violin solo, mimicking the soft chirps and melodies of morning birdsong. As the symphony builds, various instruments interject, recreating the cacophony of a forest waking up. The violin leads, weaving through this landscape, stealing melodies from the avian calls, and translating them into a human musical lexicon.

Chapter 2: The Canyon's Whisper

Transitioning from the innocence of dawn, the music takes on a deeper, more mysterious tone. Strings resonate with the echoes of the canyon, where the violin mimics the haunting call of a lone wolf. The sound of distant drums and low brass instruments evoke the vastness and depth of the canyon, setting a contrasting stage to the birdsong of the previous chapter.

Chapter 3: Eagles' Soar

A majestic violin solo emerges, embodying the graceful flight of eagles soaring above the canyon. The orchestra echoes with grandeur, mimicking the powerful wingbeats and the freedom of flight. The music here is expansive and uplifting, capturing the essence of these magnificent creatures as they rule the skies.

Chapter 4: Crows' Dance

Darkness descends as the violin and orchestra shift into a more ominous tone. The crows take center stage with their cleverness and mischief. The violin plays a playful yet mischievous

melody, surrounded by fluttering woodwinds and agitated strings. The rhythm becomes more intricate, reflecting the cunning and communal nature of the crows.

Chapter 5: Confluence

In this final chapter, all the elements converge. The melodies of the birds, the echoes of the canyon, the haunting call of the wolf, and the majestic flight of the eagles intertwine in a grand symphonic finale. The violin serves as the narrative thread, guiding the listener through this musical journey, stealing from each element to create a harmonious and thrilling conclusion.

Throughout *Stealing From Birds*, the violin serves as a storyteller, translating the sounds of nature into a symphonic language. The concerto captures the beauty, mystery, and interconnectedness of life in the canyon, offering a captivating narrative that transcends mere musicality while inviting audiences and communities to engage in a meaningful exploration of nature's music.