

Kirsten Johnson: *Remembrance, Journey and Dance*

Remembrance, Journey and Dance was written in 2016, inspired by the Syrian Refugee crisis which has deeply affecting Europe and the rest of the world. I used Syrian rhythmic and melodic modes as material. The first section uses three melodic modes, the Ajam Ajina, the Kurd Ajina, and the Hijaz Ajina, in creating a mood of reflection and remembrance, with the cello answering the call of the clarinet.

The middle section, ***Journey***, is in 5/4 and uses two Syrian rhythmic modes, the Thurayya and the Samai Thaqil, to convey movement. This juxtaposition of Syrian compositional elements within a western classical music framework conveys the similar dichotomy of Syrian refugees moving through Western countries and culture.

Dance, the final section, is a complex fusion of Syrian rhythmic modes from Damascus and Aleppo. Combined with the Nawa Athar melodic mode, a sense of bittersweet joy is brought to the refugees' journey.

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