

Melia Watras: Lament for viola solo (2016)

World Premiere:

Melia Watras, viola; September 10, 2016, Dayton, OH

Duration: 3:20

Program Notes:

Lament was written in memory of my father, Joseph Watras, who passed away in 2016 after battling cancer. It is impossible for me to express how much my father meant and continues to mean to me and my music. Joseph Watras was a philosophical man, and following his lead, I began to think of the loss we all experience as human beings when someone close to us passes away. The piece became not only a lament for him, but an expression of a shared sense of mourning that we all feel as part of humanity. My intention with *Lament* was to write in a folk song style, and the piece is included in my *Folk Style Project*.

—Melia Watras