

Melia Watras: *Photo by Mikel* for viola solo (2012)

World Premiere:

Melia Watras, viola; July 2, 2012, Chicago, IL

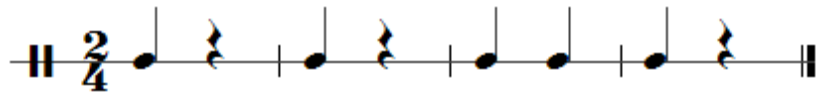
Duration: 6:16

Program Notes:

In January 2012, my cousin Mikel Watras, who is a wonderful artist, presented me with a gift of a miniature photograph. The image is of an olive grove in Akcay, Turkey, on the coast of the Aegean Sea, where she had been visiting.

I put this photo in my studio, and often found myself staring into it, transfixed by its beauty and uniqueness. As I improvised music on my viola, I would become lost in this other world. These practice sessions were the catalyst for my composition.

The rhythm commonly associated with the *alla Turca* style (see below) provides architectural and motivic elements to *Photo by Mikel*.



—Melia Watras