

## PRESSER PREMIERE S E R I E S

## **Stacy Garrop**

# Krakatoa

Concerto for Viola, Strings, and Percussion





#### Piano Version of the Concerto

This viola-piano version of the concerto has alterations in a few spots to make the piece more suitable for piano. The piece is otherwise identical to the concerto and can function as a rehearsal score for the concerto as well as a recital piece.

#### Performance Notes

- Accidentals remain in effect throughout the bar, only in the octave shown.
- All grace notes are to be played before the beat.
- All <u>trills</u> are indicated in the score if they are to be trilled a minor or major 2<sup>nd</sup>
- All tenuti are to be played both slightly detached and with a slight emphasis.
- All movements are to be played *attacca*.

#### Program Notes

On May 20, 1883, a cloud of ash rose six miles high above Krakatoa, a volcano nestled on an island in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra. For the next two months, the volcano rumbled and spewed occasional dust and debris into the air, giving nearby inhabitants a spectacular show. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, Krakatoa turned deadly with an enormous blast that spewed pyroclastic flows (a blend of ash, lava, and gases) and pumice (lava that mixes with water and solidifies quickly into rock), and commenced a series of eruptions. On the next day, the volcano produced four enormous eruptions over four and a half hours. These eruptions were so loud (particularly the fourth) that they could be heard 3,000 miles away, and so devastating that two-thirds of the island sank back under the sea. The effects of Krakatoa's eruptions were staggering: they sent shock waves into the atmosphere that circled the globe at least seven times; they triggered numerous tsunamis, the highest nearly 120 feet tall, which flooded and destroyed 165 coastal villages along with their inhabitants; and they propelled tons of ash roughly fifty miles up into the atmosphere. This ash blotted out the sun in Indonesia for days; it also lowered global temperatures for several years afterwards, and produced a wide range of atmospheric colors and phenomena. At least 36,000 people tragically lost their lives that fateful day. For the next forty-four years, Krakatoa was silent below the sea. This silence ended in 1927, when fishermen spotted steam and debris rising from the island. Within a year, a new volcano began to take shape above sea level. This new volcano is named Anak Krakatau, which translates to "child of Krakatoa," and periodically experiences small eruptions.

*Krakatoa* for solo viola, strings, and percussion follows the path of the volcano's four main eruptions. In the first movement, *Imminent*, the violist uneasily plays as the orchestra (representing the volcano) shows ever-increasing signs of awakening. The orchestra bursts forth into the second movement, *Eruption*, where it proceeds through four eruptions that get progressively more cataclysmic. After the final and most violent eruption, the violist plays a cadenza that eases the volcano into the third movement, *Dormant*. In this final movement, the volcano slumbers, soothed by musical traits that I borrowed from traditional Javanese gamelan music: a cyclical, repetitive structure in which the largest gong is heard at the end of each cycle, and a musical scale loosely based on the Javanese *pelog* tuning system. The movement ends peacefully with an array of string harmonics, representing the intense and brilliantly colored sunsets generated by Krakatoa's ash in the earth's atmosphere.

#### -S.G.

The score and parts for the Viola, Strings, and Percussion version of Krakatoa are available on rental from the publisher.





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10



















### III. DORMANT





