

David S. Carter

Sidetracked

for violin and piano

2018

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In *Sidetracked*, I was influenced by the great tradition of Appalachian train songs. The immediate reference is to the folk song “900 Miles,” in which the narrator sings

“Now if my woman tells me so
Then I can't railroad no more
I'll sidetrack my engine, go on home”

There are numerous other train and railroad folk songs in the Appalachian tradition that also contribute to the mythology of the track. *Sidetracked* alludes to this Appalachian tradition with its use of minor pentatonic scales, syncopation, drones, open fifths, sliding, and the bluesy raised fourth scale degree. “Sidetracked” in the case of this piece also refers to the adjacent tracks of the violin and the piano, as well as to how the composition of this piece unfolded. I began with a riff and originally had the idea of repeating it in a call-and-response relationship. After experimenting with a contrapuntal treatment of this riff I ended up following this sidetrack to create the piece as it exists today.

Approximate duration: 5 minutes, 50 seconds

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Violin

Searching ♩ = 130
con sord.
pizz. (bow down)
in strict time

Piano

5

9

senza sord. **A**

with quiet energy

Una corda

13

p

p

This system contains measures 13 through 16. The upper staff features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and rests, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lower staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth-note chords and rests. A crescendo hairpin is visible in the upper staff between measures 15 and 16.

17

mp

This system contains measures 17 through 21. The upper staff continues the melodic line with eighth-note patterns, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lower staff continues the rhythmic accompaniment with eighth-note chords and rests.

22

B

p

mp

pp

Tre corde

This system contains measures 22 through 25. Measure 22 is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A box labeled 'B' is placed above the upper staff in measure 23. The lower staff has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic in measure 23. The system concludes with a piano-piano (*pp*) dynamic and the instruction 'Tre corde' below the lower staff.

26

pp

This system contains measures 26 through 30. The upper staff is mostly empty, with rests. The lower staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth-note chords, marked with a piano-piano (*pp*) dynamic. A crescendo hairpin is visible in the lower staff between measures 29 and 30.