

Eight Tones for Elijah

Dave Ragland

Slowly, with emotion and reverence

8

This piece is composed to commemorate the life of Elijah McClain- a young, anemic, introverted Black violinist. Unarmed and innocent of any beknown crimes, he was subdued and killed on his walk home by police and first responders. It is dedicated to all Black Americans who have died unjustly by police and authoritative action.

The work is to be performed as an aleotoric canon - by a soloist or ensemble. There is no strict adhearance to meter, note duration or time. Performers are encouraged to shorten and lengthen notes at their own respective discretion. The performer(s) should play the ten bars through at least three times. (String players may determine their own bowing, and play the last measure as a double-stop.)

When performed as a round, each musician can enter when the preceeding musician is playing the third or fourth note, approximately. This piece may be performed as a vocalise: "Ah" and "Ooh" may be used and interchanged at liberty.

-D.R.