

PROGRAM NOTE

Thirst and Quenching was written during the early days of the pandemic while I was on lockdown with my family in Boston. I took a break from larger projects to write this work over a five-day period at the request of Jennifer Koh. Jenny and I had just worked together in Aspen the previous summer on a performance of my *Concerto for Violin and Percussion Orchestra*. What a difference a few months make! Remembering how life-changing it was to collaborate with Jenny in person, I felt paralyzed by an acute sense of loss. Needing to turn loss into gain, writing this piece was a way of capturing Jenny's astonishing presence from afar, and sharing it forward. *Thirst and Quenching* is a meditation on hiatus, absence, and longing. The piece establishes a suspended state with a delicately evolving metabolism, articulated by a regular rhythm that is gradually interrupted by left-handed *pizzicati* (plucks of the strings). The rhythm of these lacunae (gaps in the line) later transmutes into empty space, while the line develops into more rhapsodic and ornate melismas with *glissandi* articulating gentle sighs, conveying a sense of release. About three in duration, the piece was premiered on the Alone Together program finale.

Kati Agócs, 2020