

Digital Prisms, according to the composer, was inspired by the exciting way our lives have been changed by technology. Listen for the woodwinds as they depict the twittering of data across the information super highway. Later, the use of biting dissonances is meant to describe the volatile world of technology.

Our Yesterdays Lengthen Like Shadows was commissioned by the 2008 South Carolina All-State Band. It is a very unique composition in that it begins with one note, ends with that same note, and this note never stops throughout the entire length of the piece. However, after the first two measures, the listener is no longer aware that this one note is being sustained due the introduction of chordal melodies. These melodies and harmonies that occur around this note symbolize the events and experiences in our lives. The one ever-present note symbolizes *you*—just one part in a complex movement of auditory shapes. The listener doesn't notice the note after its introduction, but if the note were taken out, its texture would be immediately missed. —Samuel Hazo

Without knowing about the above description by Mr. Hazo, the Eighth Grade Band was asked to complete a writing assignment about this ever-present note, and what the title and music means to them. Below is a collection of a few of the responses of not only the students, but a few of their teachers, as well:

...the memories and things learned that are important will forever stick with us. Those moments make up the human which is the everlasting E-flat that is played throughout the piece. Our yesterdays may not literally lengthen, but the moments and memories from yesterday are forever in that E-flat. —A.M.

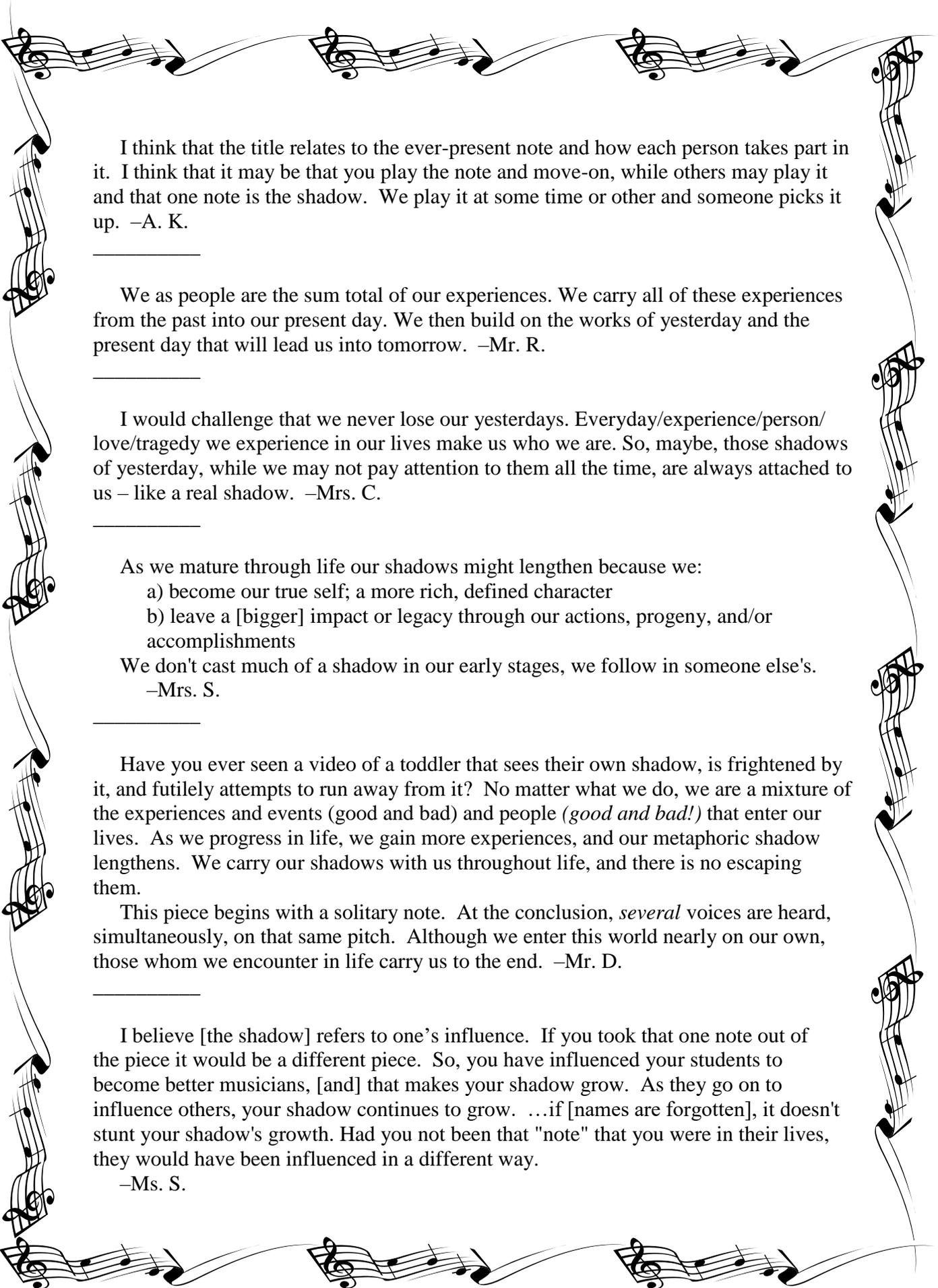
...our yesterdays get further from our remembering... —P.S.

...the lessons that yesterday teaches live-on, lengthening like our yesterdays.
—H.H.

...your experiences [are] the many rapidly changing melodies between different instruments and, finally, you, understanding the concept of death (when Hazo has multiple parts singing the E-flat at the very end of the [piece]. ...[This piece] represents our life and how the many experiences in our lives do change us, but our core beliefs/mindsets remain with us until death. —K. R.

We may lose our memories of yesterday, but we never lose our sense of self. Our memories, whether we lose them or not, strengthen us as we grow. WE are the complex movement in the auditory shapes of life and our memories are what give us complexity. —Mrs. C.

continued...

A decorative border of musical staves with notes and clefs surrounds the text. The staves are arranged in a rectangular frame, with notes and clefs appearing at the top, bottom, left, and right edges.

I think that the title relates to the ever-present note and how each person takes part in it. I think that it may be that you play the note and move-on, while others may play it and that one note is the shadow. We play it at some time or other and someone picks it up. –A. K.

We as people are the sum total of our experiences. We carry all of these experiences from the past into our present day. We then build on the works of yesterday and the present day that will lead us into tomorrow. –Mr. R.

I would challenge that we never lose our yesterdays. Everyday/experience/person/love/tragedy we experience in our lives make us who we are. So, maybe, those shadows of yesterday, while we may not pay attention to them all the time, are always attached to us – like a real shadow. –Mrs. C.

As we mature through life our shadows might lengthen because we:

- a) become our true self; a more rich, defined character
- b) leave a [bigger] impact or legacy through our actions, progeny, and/or accomplishments

We don't cast much of a shadow in our early stages, we follow in someone else's.
–Mrs. S.

Have you ever seen a video of a toddler that sees their own shadow, is frightened by it, and futilely attempts to run away from it? No matter what we do, we are a mixture of the experiences and events (good and bad) and people (*good and bad!*) that enter our lives. As we progress in life, we gain more experiences, and our metaphoric shadow lengthens. We carry our shadows with us throughout life, and there is no escaping them.

This piece begins with a solitary note. At the conclusion, *several* voices are heard, simultaneously, on that same pitch. Although we enter this world nearly on our own, those whom we encounter in life carry us to the end. –Mr. D.

I believe [the shadow] refers to one's influence. If you took that one note out of the piece it would be a different piece. So, you have influenced your students to become better musicians, [and] that makes your shadow grow. As they go on to influence others, your shadow continues to grow. ...if [names are forgotten], it doesn't stunt your shadow's growth. Had you not been that "note" that you were in their lives, they would have been influenced in a different way.

–Ms. S.