Dan O’Neill

Warm Rain

For Steel-String Guitar Quartet
(2010)

c. 5’15’’
Programme Note

*Warm Rain* is a piece for steel-string Guitar Quartet. This piece was completed in the summer of 2010 and was written for my own instrument, the guitar. The inspiration for this piece, as indicated by its title, came from the weather. The combination of heavy Irish rain followed shortly by searing sunshine is the main theme. The piece itself features a specific guitar technique that mimics the sound of rain. This technique is called ‘Harp Harmonics’ and was a key element in the writing of the music. Also because of the resonance needed for this technique I thought it would be best to use steel-string guitars. To achieve this resonance it was necessary to use heavier gauge strings that would sustain these harmonics for longer. There are also moments where natural harmonics and artificial harmonics are employed, and these too are better suited to the steel-string acoustic guitar.

Notes to Performers

Music sounds an octave lower than written.

All the accidentals hold through the bar unless cancelled by a natural sign.

Boxed notes are for fingering the harp harmonics and are not to be played.

0.12 or 0.13 gauge acoustic steel strings would be best suited.