

# Ananda Duet

## for Violin and Violoncello

June 3—July 7, 2009  
Duration: about 11 minutes

Ananda-Eric Pritchard asked me to write a duet for violin and cello for performance in Spring 2010 with Fred Raimi, in a concert given by the Mallarme Chamber Players. The guidelines were that it should be in the tradition of such duets to be technically challenging, and to be between 10 and 15 minutes long.

So, I took time off the composition of the *Hanuman Chalisa* portion of my *Mantra Cantata* to write this little duet. After the first day of composition, in the evening I heard that my sister Akanda had died the night before in Colorado. After several days when I could get back to writing music, the mood of the music seemed certain to reflect the moment.

Once I had finished the second movement, I realized that to make a longer piece that made dramatic sense would probably need two more movements and thus would be longer than 15 minutes. If there is a general outcry for a longer work someday, then I might add some more music. The Ravel and Kodaly duets, the two most well-known violin-cello works, are both over 20 minutes.

After trying varieties of part extraction, I decided to make parts for each instrument with the other part included in reduced size. This should make coordination much simpler.

## Bill Robinson

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