

# **An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *African Serenade***

**By**

**Amy Dunker**

[www.amydunker.com](http://www.amydunker.com)

**Instrumentation:** Standard String Orchestra

**Duration:** 3 1/2 Minutes

**Grade:** 3

**Harmonic Language:** Tonal (D Major)

**Meter:** 4/4

**Texture:** Melody and Accompaniment

**Composition Date:** 2007

**Publisher:** Alliance Publications, Inc., AP – 4122 [www.apimusic.org](http://www.apimusic.org)  
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(608) 748-4411 Ext. 124

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## **Composer Bio:**

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

## Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:

### Strings Around the World Series:

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

### Strings Today Series

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

## Eastern Africa:

East Africa or Eastern Africa is the easternmost region of the African continent, variably defined by geography or geopolitics. The United Nations defines Eastern Africa as a region comprising nineteen territories that includes the following: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe – Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles (small island nations in the Indian Ocean) Réunion and Mayotte (French territories in the Indian Ocean). Geographically, Egypt and Sudan are sometimes included in this region. East Africa is often used to specifically refer to the area now comprising the countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Somalia.

Some parts of East Africa are known for their concentrations of wild animals, such as the elephant, water buffalo, lion, leopard and rhinoceros, though populations have been declining in recent years. The geography of East Africa is often stunning and scenic. East Africa is the site of Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya, the two tallest peaks in Africa. It also includes the world's second largest freshwater lake, Lake Victoria, and the world's second deepest lake, Lake Tanganyika.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Africa) (accessed 02/12/08).

**Form:**

Introduction	ms. 1 – 2
A	ms. 3 – 49
B	ms. 50 - 96

**Layered Rhythm Pattern (ms. 1-4):**

The musical score illustrates a layered rhythm pattern across four measures for Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *Simile* (simile).

- Violin II:** Measures 1 and 2 are rests. In measure 3, it begins with a quarter note followed by eighth notes. In measure 4, it continues with eighth notes. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 3, *Simile* in measure 4.
- Viola:** Measures 1 and 2 are rests. In measure 3, it has a whole rest. In measure 4, it plays a quarter note followed by eighth notes. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 4.
- Cello:** Measures 1 and 2 have quarter notes. In measure 3, it has eighth notes. In measure 4, it has eighth notes. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 1, *Simile* in measure 3.
- Double Bass:** Measures 1 and 2 have quarter notes. In measure 3, it has quarter notes. In measure 4, it has quarter notes. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 1, *Simile* in measure 3.

**Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 3 - 9):**

**Amy Dunker**  
ASCAP

*mp*

Vln. I

**Theme 2 (Violin I, ms. 50 - 53):**

**C**

50

*f*

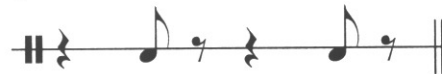
Vln. I

## African Serenade Rhythms

1.)



2.)



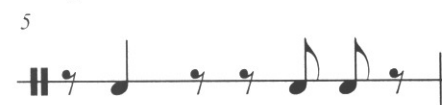
3.)



4.)



5.)



6.)



7.)



**Recommended Recordings:**

Explorer East Africa - Witchcraft and Ritual

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00006C760?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B00006C760>

Explorer: East Africa - Ceremonial & Folk

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00006C75Z?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B00006C75Z>

The Rough Guide to the Music of Kenya and Tanzania

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00000B6SB?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B00000B6SB>

*Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.*

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