

David S. Carter

Sidetracked

for violin and piano

2018

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In *Sidetracked*, I was influenced by the great tradition of Appalachian train songs. The immediate reference is to the folk song “900 Miles,” in which the narrator sings

“Now if my woman tells me so
Then I can't railroad no more
I'll sidetrack my engine, go on home”

There are numerous other train and railroad folk songs in the Appalachian tradition that contribute to the mythology of the track. *Sidetracked* alludes to this tradition with its use of minor pentatonic pitch material, syncopation, drones, open fifths, sliding, and the bluesy raised fourth scale degree.

“Sidetracked” in the case of this piece also refers to the adjacent tracks of the violin and the piano, as well as to how the composition of this piece unfolded. I began with a riff and originally had the idea of repeating it in a call-and-response relationship. After experimenting with a contrapuntal treatment of this riff I ended up following this sidetrack to create the piece as it exists today.

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Approximate duration: 5 minutes, 50 seconds

15

p *mp* *p*

20

(pick up bow)

p *mp*

25

B arco

(bow down)

ppp *p* *pp* *pp*

Tre corde

30

p *p*