

## Program Note

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When composing *The Brothers' Revenge*, I decided to embrace my Wisconsin roots. The dramatic trajectory of this piece follows that of the Wisconsin folk tale from which it takes its name. This is perhaps the quintessential midwestern "two brothers walk into a bar" story. These two brothers have been traveling, and they are looking for a place to rest when they come across a tavern. After a misunderstanding, another patron throws the older brother into the fire to burn alive. In fear, the younger brother escapes into the forest only to freeze to death. Many years later, while that same patron is traveling through the forest, he is confronted by an enormous wolf with icy blue eyes that he recognizes as the younger brother's. He turns to run, and he sees a burning man. He instantly drops dead and is never seen again.

## For the Performer

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I encourage you to use your imagination in how the music depicts the story. I will offer my conception of the piece as a way to approach the extended techniques, and other interpretive decisions. When writing this piece, I generally thought of the flute as the younger brother, the cello as the older brother, and the piano as the patron. There are exceptions to this. The very opening of the piece presents the 'travel theme' in playful conversation between the flute and cello. The brothers enter the tavern at rehearsal C, beginning the conversation with the patron. The conversation becomes more tense, leading to the older brother being thrown into the fire at m. 68. Here the flute is the younger brother's heavy, gasp-like breathing, and also the sounds of the crackling fire engulfing the older brother. At Rehearsal F, the older brother lets out a final cry, and the younger brother flees to the forest. The piano and flute fall out of sync, creating an effect of distance between the two. Air sounds of the flute simultaneously creates the chilling wind, and also the younger brother's last breaths. Use vibrato with an unfocused, breathy tone to imitate shivering. The final exhalation of breath is also suggestive of the soul leaving the body. The piano returns with the travel theme before it is confronted by each of the brothers.