

SPANISH POINT

Spanish Point is a musical introspection of my relationship with the beautiful state of North Dakota. As a young man I resonated with the pioneer spirit that has made this such a dynamic collection of individuals. As I'm growing older, however, my heart is simply drawn toward the beauty and powerful qualities of prairie- what the author Robert King calls the 'zen' of the prairie.

In many ways I think this parallels the life of what we have come to call North Dakota, initially with a mosaic of individual settlers from across Europe, only to have found centuries of Native American life to assimilate. Now, it seems there is a strange irony in that the digital age has brought about an assimilation of our culture into East-Asian pioneers through super-information exchange. Fortunately this seems to be without violence, save the extreme components of any significant change in the world's history.

But it also means a different North Dakota than what I have known - a different one from what my parents have known - and yes, the North Dakota that my grandparents knew before their farm was flooded at a hilltop called Spanish Point, to make way for the progress of Garrison Dam. Yes, what was the home of my grandparents is now deep underwater. They moved to Cooperstown and made an ever more spectacular life for themselves after that, but my grandpa never tired of telling me about how special it was to live at Spanish Point.

We are at a very special turning point in American history and it is my sincere prayer that North Dakota will always resonate with its pioneer spirit, maturity, and peaceful dignity. No need for fear - we can see the horizon wherever we look.

***Contact Composer for Purchasing Information**