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## Winter Concerto

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## Winter Concerto

I walk onto the stage  
through the back door,  
case in hand.

It is hot.  
It is hot and muggy  
and the lights are beating down.

I am walking through a maze  
of chairs and stands  
trying to reach my seat.

I put the music on the stand,  
sit in the seat,  
unlatch the case,  
cradle the violin.

After a while  
the light burns my eyes  
and I must close them  
and play the notes from memory.

The notes swarm on the page  
into my fingertips  
through my veins  
to *mi alma*.

It rests on my chin  
My fingers vibrate gently

the bow sways  
up and down.

My palms are sweaty.  
it is hot.  
It is hot and muggy  
and the lights are beating down  
and burning my eyes.

Somewhere it is snowing  
while I play the concerto of Vienna.

*Melissa Langhan, '96*