

A scenic photograph of a coastline. The sky is filled with white, fluffy clouds against a blue background. The ocean is a deep blue with white-capped waves. In the foreground, there is a rocky, sandy shore with some green vegetation. The overall mood is serene and natural.

TIM NEUMARK

INFLUENCE

Solo Piano, Op. 3

INFLUENCE

2014 Remaster

1. The Conductor (3:47)
2. On My Way (3:33)
3. Kenyon Court (4:29)
4. First Call (4:20)
5. Six Weeks (4:14)
6. Variations on Rachel's Theme (4:52)
7. Birds of Prague (6:13)
8. Thurman (3:23)
9. Spillville, Iowa (3:43)
10. Meditation: Giving Thanks (2:37)
11. Church on a Hill (4:34)
12. Leaving Frostburg (3:56)

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Total Runtime: 49:40. TimNeumark.com



Influence is dedicated to the many people and places that have inspired me and my music. While each track has its specific dedication, I would also like to thank the many composers whose music has touched my life and influenced my own composition styles. Kostia, David Lanz, John Tesh, and Michael Jones; Antonín Dvořák and Ludwig van Beethoven; John Williams and James Horner; Ben Folds and Billy Joel – your music continues to be an inspiration.

The Conductor is dedicated to Linda Croft, who was a school teacher, music director, and church organist in western Maryland until she died from cancer at an early age. Linda did not have children of her own, but through her youth choir and other student-related activities she was able to touch the lives of hundreds of students. (Other former choir members may recognize a familiar riff in the bridge of this song.) I was fortunate to be in her youth choir and to have her as a teacher. Linda led a wonderful life, and is dearly missed by all of us.

On My Way is named for its moment of inspiration: I was driving home when the melody popped into my head. This piece has an air of nostalgia that I associate with home.

Kenyon Court is written for the year when I lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This song is meant to convey both solitude and joy: I spent much of that year on my own, but I also experienced many musical inspirations that eventually led to a number of tracks on my first album, *Biography*.

First Call is for my wife Monica. This song's inspiration comes from the first time I talked to her.



Linda Croft

Ben Folds wrote about an "old man who lived until his 90s" who died, and whose wife died shortly thereafter. **Six Weeks** was written about the two-month span in 2008 when both of Monica's paternal grandparents passed away.

Around the time I started playing the piano, there was a new girl in my high school who was a very good pianist. She primarily played classical pieces, but she had one of her own melodies that she occasionally played to practice improvisations. This melody stuck in my head – but only the first five notes! **Variations on Rachel's Theme** is based on this five-note motif.

The opening chord sequence for **Birds of Prague** is one of the most famous passages written for a symphony orchestra; they are the opening chords to the second movement of Dvořák's Ninth Symphony. This piece is dedicated to Antonín Dvořák, whose music I greatly admire. Dvořák loved to watch and listen to birds; the primary melody to this piece is meant to paint a picture of birds flying. In addition to the Ninth Symphony references, the middle section of this piece is based on the slow section of his Carnival Overture.

In the summer of 1998, I lived in Hershey, Pennsylvania, playing baseball. My host parents had an ever-happy dog named **Thurman**. This piece is for Thurman and the Montgomerys, who invited me into their home for that summer.

Spillville, Iowa includes more references to Dvořák; this piece uses one of the themes from his American Quartet, which he wrote while visiting Spillville in the summer of 1893.

Each of my albums include a meditation piece. **Meditation: Giving Thanks** is my expression of thanks for the ability to write and share music that others enjoy.

Church on a Hill is dedicated to two Mennonite congregations who helped shape my music. It was at these churches where I first performed in front of an audience and eventually debuted several of my own original pieces. I am forever grateful for their encouragement and support.

Leaving Frostburg is for my parents, who retired and moved from Frostburg, Maryland shortly before the initial release of *Influence*. After 30 treasured years in the small town, they began a new chapter of life closer to family.

This album is the remastered version of the 2009 release of *Influence*. This remaster smooths out some melodic and harmonic lines, and makes the sound of this album consistent with later releases.

All music composed, arranged, and performed by Tim Neumark.
Mixed and mastered at Piano Haven Studio in Sedona, AZ. Engineered by Joe Bongiorno.
Design and cover photo by Monica Neumark.

Thanks to Monica and Joe, who continue to help me release more music! Thanks especially to all my fans. Without your support, I would not have been able to remaster this album, which is something I wanted to do for you, so you could hear the music as I had originally intended.

This album is dedicated in loving memory to Lucille Goulart.

For CDs, sheet music, and concert dates, visit timneumark.com



Antonín Dvořák

INFLUENCE

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