*Vine Street Express* for violoncello and piano is a tone poem about the street in Hollywood where I live. While short for Los Angeles standards - it runs for only about 2 miles - it passes through a variety of neighborhoods. Starting out at its Northern end in a quiet area at the bottom of the Hollywood Hills, Vine Street takes on a more urban feel South of Franklin Ave. A stretch featuring bustling night life and a number of cultural attractions (Capitol Records, and the nearby Pantages Theater) is followed by a section lined with modern architecture, close to Sunset Blvd. From there on to its Southern end at Melrose Ave., Vine Street runs through a slightly funky urban area with businesses, restaurants – and the Musicians’ Union!

*Vine Street Express* takes the listener on an imaginary tram ride from it’s urban source at Melrose Avenue through the heart of Hollywood, all the way to the beginnings of the Hills and then back to the culturally rich intersection of Hollywood and Vine.

The urban part of this brief journey is musically expressed through jazzy colors and rhythms, while the piece’s contemplative, calm middle section describes the quietness and remoteness of the Hills.

Gernot Wolfgang

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