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## **Bite the Dust - Program Note**

*Bite the Dust* was commissioned by the Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble for their National Parks Project, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The work was written in the spring of 2016 in New Haven, CT, and premiered in July 2016 at Badlands National Park in Interior, SD.

Inspired by Badlands National Park and its ever-interesting process of rapid erosion, I was particularly motivated by the fact that erosion has seemed to always dominate the Badlands landscape which have led to the geologic formations found within the park today, and that the formations will eventually erode away again. Therefore the electronic track represents the "dust" upon which the Badlands were formed upon and the dust which will erode them away eventually, while the instrumental parts represent the creation of the geologic formations and elements around that. The form of the piece hopefully represents this gradual transition, forming from almost nothing to a very bold and thick texture, and eventually eroding away again to its beginning. I want the piece feel like one big motion that is very natural yet unsettling, in its seemingly impossible attempt to capture millions of years in eight or so minutes.