



Pinhole photograph, Smith Island Sunrise
Mary Agnes Williams, 2014 www.maryagneswilliams.com



Smith Island Sunrise Thomas Parker Williams



Detail view showing active area outlined in red.

Smith Island, MD sits twelve miles from shore in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. Two converted fishing boats ferry visitors and residents between the mainland and three tiny island towns. For generations, the close-knit families on the island have made their living from the Bay. Smith Island is still an active waterman community.

Smith Island Sunrise - is a musical composition that was created by using a visual source, a pinhole photograph by Mary Agnes Williams. I used the numerical RGB values of a small, 10 x 100 pixel, section of the photo to assign pitches for the score. The numerical values of 500 of these pixels are used in this composition.

I selected 5 rows of pixels, and read off the RGB values. Red (first row), green (3rd row), red (5th row), blue (7th row) and green (10th row). Using these values I assigned notes over the range of five octaves.

The numerical value is shown below each note. The notes of the five octave range are assigned from the value 57 (C2) to 227 (C7). These numerical values were the lowest and highest observed in the photograph within the standard range of 00 (black) to 255 full color value.

In some cases the notes of a value were transposed to a different octave for musical purposes.

The written score, 50 measures long, 2 pixels per measure was played and recorded and may be heard by scanning the QR code or visiting www.thomasparkerwilliams.com/smith-island-sunrise.htm.

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Measure 21

Numerical value versus pitch value as played
 - Note = pitch value transposed down one octave
 + Note = pitch value transposed up one octave
 * Note = pitch value transposed up two octaves

Pixel 1 Red value
 57* 57* 57* 57* 57* 57* 57* 57* 59* 61* 65* 70+76+83+91+97+ 103+ 109+ 115 122 130 137 147 157 164 168 173 182 184 192 203 213 218 222 221 224 214 197 189 187

Pixel 3 Grn value
 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 58 58 60 63 65 68 72 72 78 81 84 88 93 97 103 111 115 118 122 126 130 132 135 140 145 152 160 171 182 190 195 198 197 192 183 174 165 155 138 135

Pixel 5 Red value
 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 58+ 59+ 63+ 65+ 68+ 71 74 77 81 84 89 96 100 103 107 111 115 119 123 129 137 148 159 174 188 198 208 205 197 186 174 165 154 137 133

Pixel 7 Blu value
 58+ 58+ 58+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 57+ 58+ 61+ 71 74 74 77 77 77 75 70+ 66+ 63+ 60+

Pixel 10 Grn value
 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 58 61 67 75 84 90 95 96 94 89 81 73 68 65 63 62 61

Measure 50

Pixel 1 Red value
 184 182 186 193 208 209 207 204 199 189 187 189 190 193 196 195 193 191 188 184 180 178 176 173 169 167 166 165 163 160 159 157 153 150 148 147

Pixel 3 Grn value
 134 138 146 156 164 168 167 163 150 148 151 155 163 169 168 166 164 160 158 154 151 149 148 146 144 141 138 135 133 131 130 129

Pixel 5 Red value
 131 130 133 139 147 157 157 155 146 140 137 140 144 148 152 157 156 154 152 151 151 149 147 144 142 139 137 132 130 129 128 126 124 124 123 122 120 119 118 117 115

Pixel 7 Blu value
 60+61+63+67+71 74 75 76 76 75 72 69+69+71 73 76 79 82 85 86 87 87 86 86 85 85 85 84 84 84 84 84 83 83 82 82 82 81 81 81 81 81 81 80 79 78 77 77 75

Pixel 10 Grn value
 60 60 62 63 64 65 65 65 64 64 66 69 71 73 75 75 77 76 76 76 76 76 75 74 70 68 67 66 65 64 64 64 64 64 64 64