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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 process of rapid erosion, *Bite the Dust* was motivated by geologic formations within the park today and how the formations will eventually erode away. The electronic track represents the "dust" upon which the Badlands were formed upon and which will deteriorate, while the instrumental parts represent the creation of the geologic formations and elements around that. The form of the piece represents this gradual transition, from almost nothing to a very bold and thick texture, and eventually eroding back to its beginning. I hope the work feels like one big motion that is very natural yet unsettling, in its seemingly impossible attempt to capture millions of years in several minutes.