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The flower mantis

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# The flower mantis

for violin, violoncello and piano

(2020)



with thanks to the 2019 Juilliard Gena Raps Piano Chamber Prize



# The flower mantis

## PROGRAM NOTES

Hunting among flowers, the flower mantis attracts its prey in the most discreetly fatal manner. With its beautiful camouflage as disguise, it is incredibly dangerous and easily lures its prey into irreversible and regrettable peril.

The *Indolamantis diabolica*, or the devil's flower mantis, is the largest of this species, and my projected imagination of its preying activity treads the entire structure of the piece.

Four consecutive parts constitute the backbone of the music, namely *Blooming*, *Stalking*, *Waiting* and *The Kill*. In *Blooming*, the flower mantis displays its colors quietly but confidently, before it spots the enticed prey nearby and follows its movements around it with all five of its eyes in *Stalking*. After moments of unsettling and irritated gestures poured in a rather romantic fashion, the mantis continues to lie patiently in wait, before pouncing on the unsuspecting prey and locking it down with its extremely strong, spiked forelegs. The eventual kill proceeds faster than all the preparation involved, filled with a menacing and relentless disposition forged by strong rhythmic momentum and joyous ecstasy.

Special thanks to Ms. Gena Raps for igniting the genesis of this piano trio.



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## BLOOMING

Calm ♩ = 76

Violin

Violoncello

Piano

*solo*  
*pensive, continuous*

*p* *pp*

2

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*faint*  
*vib. sempre*

*pp*

*very feeble, in the distance*  
*vib. sempre*

*p* *pp*

*very light*  
*8va*

*pp*

*Red.*

\*Notes without fermata should be played accurately in duration.

2

3

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

*8va*

4/4

4

Vln. *airly* *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *p*

*sul A*

5

4/4

molto vib.

5

Vln. *mf* *poco cresc.* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

Violin cues (2 measures) *unlimited*

Violin cues (2 measures)

8

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f* *free bow*

Pno. *mp* *f*



*sul tasto*  
*very tender* **Ritenuito**

Vln. 12

*p* *pp*

Vc. *molto vib.* *ff* *p* *sul tasto*

Pno. *very tender* **Ritenuito**

*pp*

*Red.*

**a tempo, relaxed and broad**

Vln. 15

*delicate, warm*

Vc. *pp* *delicate*

**a tempo, relaxed and broad**

Pno. *poco cresc.* *mp*

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

16

Vln. *ord.* **N**  
*p* *espr.*

Vc. *ord.* **H**  
*mf*

Pno. *pp*

(8) Ped.

17

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf* 3

Pno. *8va* *pp*

18 H

Vln. *tender pp* *p* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *p* *mp*

Pno. *ppp* *pp* *p*

Ped. *ped. ad lib.*

21

Vln. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mp* *f* *mf* *f*

accel.

fast bow

flamboyant

Musical score for measures 23-24. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin (Vln.):** Measure 23 is a whole rest. Measure 24 begins with a *mf* dynamic, marked *flamboyant*. It features a sixteenth-note triplet followed by a five-note phrase with a slur and a fermata. A *fast bow* instruction is placed above the staff.
- Viola (Vc.):** Measure 23 is a whole rest. Measure 24 begins with a *mf* dynamic, marked *accel.*. It features a half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note with a slur and a fermata.
- Piano (Pno.):** Measure 23 contains a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 24 features a complex texture with chords and moving lines in both staves, including a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line.

Musical score for measures 25-26. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin (Vln.):** Measure 25 begins with a *f* dynamic, marked *flamboyant*. It features a sixteenth-note triplet followed by a five-note phrase with a slur and a fermata. A *fast bow* instruction is placed above the staff. Measure 26 continues with a *f* dynamic.
- Viola (Vc.):** Measure 25 features a half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note with a slur and a fermata. Measure 26 continues with a *f* dynamic.
- Piano (Pno.):** Measure 25 features a complex texture with chords and moving lines in both staves, including a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line. Measure 26 continues with a *ff* dynamic.

**Con moto**

break off

Vln.

28

3/4

*sfp* *ff*

Vc.

break off

3

*mf* *ff*

Pno.

break off

**Con moto** dry, marcato

*p* *ff*

31

Vln.

*fff*

Vc.

*fff*

Pno.

*fff*

Ped.

Fließender

**A** STALKING

♩ = 92

→ fast vib.

pizz.

crisp

33

Vln. *sfp*

Vc. *sfp*

*f* *p*

*ff* *p*

Fließender

STALKING

♩ = 92

pizz.  
crisp

Pno.

*sfz*

*ff*

*crisp*

Ped. *ff*

38

Vln. arco *fff* *mp* *sf* *f*

Vc. arco *fff* *mp* *sf* *f*

Pno. *ff* *pp* *sf* *f*

*crisp*

10

arco  
on string

42

Vln.

*pp*

*ff*

*pppp*

*ff*

violin cues

pizz.

Vc.

arco  
on string

*pp*

*ff*

*pppp*

*ff*

violin cues  
pizz.

Pno.

legato

*mf*

*ff*

*ff*

violin cues

8<sup>vb</sup>

47

Vln.

arco  
marcato

*mf*

Vc.

arco  
marcato

*mf*

Pno.

marcato

*mf*

8<sup>vb</sup>

50 *f* pizz. arco legato 11

Vln. *f* *pp*

Vc. *f* *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*

55 *mp* *f* *ff* pizz. *ff* pizz.

Vln. *mp* *f* *ff*

Vc. *ff* pizz.

Pno. *ff*



60

Vln. arco pizz. *fff*

Vc. arco pizz. *fff*

Pno. *fff* *pp*

64

Vln. arco pizz. *pp* *ff* *p* *sfp* violin cues

Vc. arco pizz. *pp* *ff* *p* *sfp* violin cues

Pno. *ff* *sfp* violin cues

69

Vln. arco on string *sfp*

Vc. arco on string *sfp*

Pno. legato *sfp*

8<sup>vb</sup>.1

72

Vln. pizz. *f* *mp* arco *pp*

Vc. pizz. *f* arco *mp*

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*

77

Vln. *mp* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *arco* 3

Pno. *ff*

Measures 77-80. Vln. starts at *mp*, Vc. at *ff*, Pno. at *ff*. Vc. has *pizz.* and *arco* markings, with a triplet of eighth notes. Pno. has a *C* marking above the right hand.

81

Vln. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

Measures 81-84. Vln. starts at *mf*, Vc. at *mf*, Pno. at *mf*. Vln. and Vc. have a 16-measure rest in measure 82. Dynamics change to *f* in measure 83.

**B**

85

Vln. *mf* *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *mf*

*ped. ad lib.*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 85 and 86. Measure 85 is in 4/4 time, and measure 86 is in 3/4 time. The Violin part starts with a rest in 4/4, then plays a melodic line with accents in 3/4. The Viola part plays a few notes in 4/4 and rests in 3/4. The Piano part has a complex accompaniment in 4/4 and continues in 3/4 with a pedal marking.

87

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p* *mp*

Pno. *pp* *mf*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 87 and 88. Measure 87 is in 4/4 time, and measure 88 is in 3/4 time. The Violin and Viola parts play sustained notes in 4/4. The Piano part has a melodic line in 4/4 and rests in 3/4.

89

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*molto vib.  
intense*

*mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 89 and 90. The Violin (Vln.) part is silent, indicated by a whole rest. The Violoncello (Vc.) part begins in measure 89 with a half note G2, followed by a slur over two eighth notes (F2, G2) and another slur over two eighth notes (G2, F2). In measure 90, there is a long note (G2) with a slur and a fermata. The Piano (Pno.) part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals (sharps, naturals, flats) and slurs across both staves. Dynamics include *mp* in measure 89 and *molto vib. intense* in measure 90.

91

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 91 and 92. The Violin (Vln.) part has a whole rest in measure 91, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 92, which then leads into a long note (G4) with a slur and a fermata. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a half note G2 in measure 91, followed by a long note (G2) with a slur and a fermata in measure 92. The Piano (Pno.) part continues with the complex rhythmic pattern from the previous system, featuring slurs and a fermata in measure 92. The dynamic *pp* is marked in measure 92.

93 *molto vib.* *mf* *p* *sul G*

95 *sul tasto* *pp* *pp* *sul A*

97

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *p* 3

Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 97 and 98. The Violin (Vln.) part starts with a whole note G4 in measure 97 and a whole note G4 in measure 98, with a *mp* dynamic marking. The Viola (Vc.) part has a whole note G3 in measure 97 and a triplet of eighth notes (F4, G4, A4) in measure 98, with a *p* dynamic marking. The Piano (Pno.) part features a complex melodic line in the right hand with many accidentals and a whole note chord in the left hand.

99

Vln. 3 5

Vc.

Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 99 and 100. The Violin (Vln.) part has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 99 and a quintuplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4, C5, B4) in measure 100. The Viola (Vc.) part has a melodic line in measure 99 and a whole note chord in measure 100. The Piano (Pno.) part continues with a complex melodic line in the right hand and a whole note chord in the left hand.

101

Vln. *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *ppp* *mf*

103

Vln.

Vc. *f* *free bow*

Pno.



105

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 105 and 106. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts consist of sustained notes, each enclosed in a large oval. The Violin part starts with a treble clef and a sharp key signature. The Viola part starts with a bass clef and a sharp key signature. The Piano (Pno.) part is written in grand staff. The right hand has a complex melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings, including a *f* (forte) marking. The left hand has a simpler accompaniment with slurs.

107

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*ppp*

*pppp*

*mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 107 and 108. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts consist of sustained notes, each enclosed in a large oval. The Violin part starts with a treble clef and a sharp key signature. The Viola part starts with a bass clef and a sharp key signature. The Piano (Pno.) part is written in grand staff. The right hand has a complex melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings, including a *ppp* (pianissimo) marking. The left hand has a simpler accompaniment with slurs. A *pppp* (pianississimo) marking is present in the lower register of the left hand. A *mp* (mezzo-piano) marking is present in the right hand.

109

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*f*

111

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*8va*

113

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Ped.

*mf* *p*

115

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Ped.

Ped.

117 H

Vln. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Ped. *ped ad lib.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 117 and 118. Measure 117 is in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The Violin part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur. The Viola part also starts with *f* and has a single note. The Piano part has a *mf* dynamic and includes a pedal marking. Measure 118 changes to 3/4 time and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The Violin part is marked *mf* and includes a triplet. The Viola part has a triplet and a slur. The Piano part has a *mf* dynamic and includes a *ped ad lib.* marking.

119

Vln. *f*

Vc. *mf*

Pno.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 119, 120, and 121. Measure 119 is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The Violin part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and has a single note. The Viola part has a *mf* dynamic and a melodic line with a slur. The Piano part has a *mf* dynamic and includes a *ped ad lib.* marking. Measure 120 continues in 3/4 time with the same key signature. The Violin part has a single note. The Viola part has a melodic line with a slur and a *v* marking. The Piano part has a *mf* dynamic and includes a *ped ad lib.* marking. Measure 121 is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The Violin part has a single note. The Viola part has a melodic line with a slur and a *v* marking. The Piano part has a *mf* dynamic and includes a *ped ad lib.* marking.

122

Vln. no break *ff* rubato

Vc. no break *ff* rubato

Pno. no break *ff* rubato

Ped.

125

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

*f* ped. ad lib.

127

Vln. *f* *powerful* *ff*

Vc. *f* *powerful* *gliss.* *ff*

Pno. *f* *powerful* *8va* *ff*

**Swaying**

**C WAITING**

♩. = 66

129

Vln. *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *pp* *precise*

Pno. *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

*solo plain, stillness, non espr.*

*WAITING very light, transparent*

*8vb*

*Ped.*

135

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

N

*pp*

*ppp*

*p*

(8).....

Ped.

139

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*warm espr.*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*ppp*

*8va*.....

Ped.

143

Vln. *warm*

Vc. *dark* *mp*

Pno. *pp* *N* *ped. ad lib.* *Ped.*

147

Vln. *warm* *sul A*

Vc. *warm*

Pno. *poco cresc.*



150 *free bow* *more moving*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *free bow* *n*

Pno. *pppp* *n* *mp* *more moving*

*8va*

*Ped.* *almost inaudible*

# D ENTICING

154 *piano cues*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf* *piano cues*

Pno. *mf* *piano cues* *ppp twinkling*

*Ped.*

156

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*non cresc.*

*non cresc.*

*simile*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 156 and 157. The Violin (Vln.) part begins with a half note G4 in measure 156, which is tied to the start of measure 157. In measure 157, it plays a quarter-note melodic line: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. The Viola (Vc.) part also has a half note G3 in measure 156, tied to measure 157. In measure 157, it plays a quarter-note line: G3, F3, E3, D3. The Piano (Pno.) part features a complex accompaniment with sixteenth and thirty-second notes in both hands. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic marking *non cresc.* is present in the second measure for all three parts. The word *simile* is written below the piano part in the first measure.

158

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 158 and 159. The Violin (Vln.) part has a half note G4 in measure 158, which is tied to the start of measure 159. In measure 159, it has a whole rest. The Viola (Vc.) part has a half note G3 in measure 158, tied to measure 159. In measure 159, it has a whole rest. The Piano (Pno.) part continues with its accompaniment. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

*very light, floating*

159

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Ped.

160

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. *mp*

162

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *pp* *mf*

Ped.

164

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *pp* *leggiro*

Ped.

3 + 2

166

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

Pno. *ppp*

*simile*

168

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *C*

3 + 4 sul A

170

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mp*

*p*

*pppp*

3

3/4

172

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mf*

*mf*

3

3

7/8

4 + 3

Musical score for measures 173-176. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin (Vln.):** Measure 173 starts with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes in measure 176 with a 2/4 time signature. The dynamic marking is *mf*.
- Viola (Vc.):** Measure 173 starts with a bass clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features a *p* dynamic marking with a hairpin crescendo. The piece concludes in measure 176 with a 2/4 time signature.
- Piano (Pno.):** Measure 173 starts with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes in measure 176 with a 2/4 time signature.

3 + 4

H

Musical score for measures 175-178. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Violin (Vln.):** Measure 175 starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The piece concludes in measure 178 with a 7/8 time signature. The dynamic marking is *f espr.*
- Viola (Vc.):** Measure 175 starts with a bass clef and a 2/4 time signature. The piece concludes in measure 178 with a 7/8 time signature. The dynamic marking is *f espr.*
- Piano (Pno.):** Measure 175 starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The piece concludes in measure 178 with a 7/8 time signature. The dynamic markings are *mf* and *mp*.

177

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mf*

*mp*

5

3

179

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*f*

*molto con passione*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

*p*

3

3



3 + 2

181

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *ppp*

*ped. ad lib.*

184

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *mf*

*legato but accented*

186

Vln. *f* *ff* *rit.*

Vc. *f* *ff* *free bow*

Pno. *mf* *ff* *rit.*

*ped. ad lib.*

188

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *ff* *mp* *unlimited*

*free bow*

**Slow, freely**  
*piano solo*

192

*solo shimmering*

*ppp*

Vln.

Vc.

**Slow, freely**  
*solo, exuberantly*

*8va*

*f p — 5 — mf mp mf — 5 — f*

Pno.

*improvisatory, approx.*

195

*mp*

*mf*

*n*

*molto vib.*

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

Pno.

**E** THE KILL

♩ = 88

*gliss.*

199 *solo*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *solo* *mf*

Pno. *f*

206

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. *p*

Ped.

emphasized

212

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

Red.

219

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.

arco

*ff*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

225

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mp*

*p*

*p*

232

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*p*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*p*

pizz.

239

Vln. *f* *ff*

Vc. arco pizz. arco *mf* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff* break

8va<sup>-</sup> 7

8va<sup>-</sup> 1

244

Vln. *pp*

Vc. arco *f*

Pno. *pp* *ped.* *ped ad lib.*

249

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *p* *free bow*

Pno.

255

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.



261

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*mf*

*p*

*f*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

Red.

267

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

*f*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

Dance-like

♩ = 96

273

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Measures 273-278. Violin and Violoncello parts start with a forte (*f*) dynamic and feature triplet patterns. The Piano part also begins with *f*. By measure 276, the dynamics shift to pianissimo (*pp*) for all instruments, with triplets continuing in the strings and piano.

279

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Measures 279-284. The Violin and Violoncello parts continue with triplets, with dynamics ranging from *f* to *sfp*. The Piano part features an *8va* (octave) marking and starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

285

Vln. *fff*

Vc. *H* *drunkedly*

Pno. *mf* *f*

*N*  
legato

*pp* *f*

292

Vln.

Vc. *ff* *pp*

Pno. *f* *H* *mp* *f*

*N*

299

Vln. *ff* *ff* pizz. marcato, penetrative arco

Vc. pizz. arco pizz. marcato, penetrative *f* *ff* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *f* marcato, penetrative

304

Vln. pizz. *ff* arco

Vc. arco pizz. *ff*

Pno.

309

Vln. arco *f* *sfp*

Vc. pizz. *f* arco

Pno. *f*

314

Vln. *f* *p* *mp* *scurrying away*

Vc. *mp* *scurrying away*

Pno. *mp*

3

320

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f* *pizz.* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp* *scurrying away*

325

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *legato* *p*

329 (tr) *p*

Vln.

Vc. *f* *f* *ff*

Pno. *ppp* *sf*

334 (#) *mf* *f* *ff*

Vln. *pizz.* *arco* *8va* *3* *6* *6*

Vc. *arco* *pizz.* *mp* *f* *ff*

Pno. *mp* *f* *ff*