

UCLA

Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

The flower mantis

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/35p326vt>

Author

Koh, Cheng Jin

Publication Date

2020

Cheng Jin Koh

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.

The flower mantis

1

with thanks to the 2019 Juilliard Gena Raps Piano Chamber Prize

BLOOMING

Calm = 76

Cheng Jin Koh
(2020)

*Notes without fermata should be played accurately in duration.

©Cheng Jin Koh 2020

2

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

8va

mp

mf

sul A

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

airy

p

p

p

p

5

molto vib.

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

poco cresc.

Violin cues (2 measures)
unlimited

mp *mf*

mp

Violin cues (2 measures)

ff

Vln.

Vc. *f*

free bow

Pno. *mp*

f

Musical score for strings and piano, page 4, measures 12-13.

Measure 12: Violin (Vln.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Cello (Vc.) plays sustained notes with "molto vib." (very vibrato) in 5/4 time. Piano (Pno.) rests in 5/4 time.

Measure 13: Violin (Vln.) continues eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Cello (Vc.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Piano (Pno.) begins eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time.

Measure 14: Violin (Vln.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Cello (Vc.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Piano (Pno.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time.

Measure 15: Violin (Vln.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Cello (Vc.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. Piano (Pno.) plays eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time.

a tempo, relaxed and broad

Musical score for strings and piano, page 15. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Violin part is marked *delicate, warm*. The Cello part is marked *pp delicate*. The Piano part is marked **a tempo, relaxed and broad**, with dynamics *poco cresc.* followed by *mp*. The score is in common time (indicated by '4') throughout, except for a section in 3/4 time indicated by a brace over the Vln. and Vc. parts. Measure numbers 15 and 16 are shown at the top right. The piano part features a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a treble line with sixteenth-note patterns. The violin and cello parts have sustained notes and grace note figures.

16

Vln. *ord.* **N** *ord.*

Vc. *ord.* **H**

Pno. *mf* *pp*

(8) *Reed.*

17

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *b* *3*

Pno. *8va* *3* *pp*

18 H

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

Vc. ***pp*** ***p*** ***mp***

Pno. ***ppp*** ***pp*** ***p***

Ped. ***ped. ad lib.***

21

Vln. ***mf***

Vc. ***mf***

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

f ***mf*** ***f*** ***f***

accel.

flamboyant

fast bow

Vln. 23

Vc.

Pno.

Vln. 25

Vc.

Pno.

This musical score page contains two systems of music for three instruments: Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

System 1 (Measures 23-24):

- Violin (Vln.):** Playing eighth-note patterns. In measure 23, it starts with a rest followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. In measure 24, it continues with eighth-note patterns, with dynamic *mf* and a performance instruction *flamboyant*. Measure 24 ends with a measure number 5.
- Cello (Vc.):** Playing eighth-note patterns. It begins with a rest in measure 23 and starts its eighth-note pattern in measure 24.
- Piano (Pno.):** Playing sustained notes. It starts with a sustained note in measure 23 and continues in measure 24.

System 2 (Measures 25-26):

- Violin (Vln.):** Playing sixteenth-note patterns. It starts with a sixteenth-note pattern in measure 25, followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 26 ends with a dynamic *f*.
- Cello (Vc.):** Playing eighth-note patterns. It starts with eighth-note patterns in measure 25, followed by sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 26 ends with a dynamic *f*.
- Piano (Pno.):** Playing sustained notes. It starts with sustained notes in measure 25, followed by sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 26 ends with a dynamic *ff*.

Con moto

28

Vln. *break off* *sfp* *ff*

Vc. *break off* *mf* *ff*

Con moto *dry, marcato*

Pno. *break off* *p* *ff*

31

Vln. *fff* *2*

Vc. *fff* *2*

Pno. *fff* *2*

Ped.

A STALKING

9

Fließender

$\text{♩} = 92$

→ fast vib.

33

Vln. $\text{♩} = 92$

Vc. $\text{♩} = 92$

Pno.

Fließender $\text{♩} = 92$

pizz.
crisp

pizz.
crisp

STALKING

ff **p**

ff

38

Vln. $\text{♩} = 92$

Vc. $\text{♩} = 92$

Pno.

arco
fff = **mp**

pizz.
sf

f

arco
fff = **mp**

pizz.
sf

f

ff

pp **sf** **f**

ff

10

42

Vln. arco on string *pizz.*

Vc. arco on string *pp* *ff* *ffff* *ffff* *ff* *ff* *ffff*

Pno. legato *mf* *ff* *ff* *ff*

47

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

arco
marcato

arco
marcato

marcato

mf

mf

8^{vb}

50

Vln. *pizz.* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *f*

Pno. *arco legato* *pp*

Vln. *arco legato* *mf*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *p*

11

55

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *ff*

Vln. *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.*

Pno. *ff*

60

Vln. arco
fff

Vc. arco
fff

Pno. fff pp

violin cues

64 arco
pp

arco
pp ff

pizz.
sfp

violin cues
pizz.
sfp

violin cues

ff

sfp

8vb

69

Vln. arco on string
Vc. *sfp*

Pno. legato
sfp
8va

72 pizz.

Vln. *f* arco *pp*

Vc. pizz. arco

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*

77

Vln. *mp*

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.

ff

arco

81

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

f

mf

f

B

15

85

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

f

f

mf

ped. ad lib.

87

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

mp

pp

mf

89

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

molto vib.
intense

mp

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff includes parts for Violin (Vln.) and Cello (Vc.). The Violin part has a single note on the first measure and a sustained note with a vibrato bow on the second measure. The Cello part has a single note on the first measure and a sustained note with a vibrato bow on the second measure. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), featuring two staves. The upper piano staff shows eighth-note patterns with various accidentals. The lower piano staff shows sustained notes with a vibrato bow. Measure 89 ends with a fermata over the piano's upper staff. Measure 90 begins with a sustained note from the piano's lower staff, followed by a dynamic marking of *mp*.

91

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pp

3

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff includes parts for Violin (Vln.) and Cello (Vc.). The Violin part starts with a rest and a dynamic of *pp*, followed by a sixteenth-note pattern marked with a '3' above the staff. The Cello part has a sustained note with a vibrato bow. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), featuring two staves. The upper piano staff shows eighth-note patterns with various accidentals. The lower piano staff shows sustained notes with a vibrato bow. Measure 91 ends with a fermata over the piano's lower staff. Measure 92 begins with a sustained note from the piano's lower staff, followed by a dynamic marking of *pp*.

93 molto vib.

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *p*

Pno.

sul G

17

95 sul tasto

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

sul A

pp

pp

©Cheng Jin Koh 2020

18

97

This musical score page contains three staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vln.), the middle staff for the Cello/Bass (Vc.), and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line. In the first measure, the Vln. plays a sustained note with a dynamic of ff . The Vc. also has a sustained note with a dynamic of p . The Pno. staff shows a series of eighth-note chords. In the second measure, the Vln. and Vc. continue their sustained notes with dynamics of $b\text{f}$ and mp respectively. The Pno. staff shows a continuation of its eighth-note chordal pattern.

99

99

This musical score page contains three staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vln.), the middle staff for the Cello/Bass (Vc.), and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line. In the first measure, the Vln. has a sustained note with a dynamic of ff . The Vc. plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Pno. staff shows a series of eighth-note chords. In the second measure, the Vln. and Vc. continue their sustained notes with dynamics of 3 and 5 respectively. The Pno. staff shows a continuation of its eighth-note chordal pattern.

101

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

mp

mf

ppp

mf

103

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

free bow

f

105

Vln. *f*

Vc.

Pno.

Measure 105: Violin (Vln.) sustained note with grace marks; Cello (Vc.) sustained note with grace marks. Measure 106: Violin (Vln.) sustained note with grace marks; Cello (Vc.) sustained note with grace marks. Piano (Pno.) eighth-note patterns.

107

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *pppp* *mp*

Pno.

Measure 107: Violin (Vln.) sustained note with grace marks; Cello (Vc.) sustained note with grace marks. Measure 108: Violin (Vln.) sustained note with grace marks; Cello (Vc.) sustained note with grace marks. Piano (Pno.) eighth-note patterns.

109

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

111

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

mf

p

pp

gva

113

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Ped.

115

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Ped.

H

117

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

mf

3

3

ped ad lib.

119

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

mf

122

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

rubato

no break

no break

ff

rubato

tr

ff

rubato

no break

ff

ped.

125

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pp

pp

f ped. ad lib.

Musical score page 25, system 127. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Violin and Cello play eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings 'f' and 'powerful'. The Cello has a glissando instruction. The Piano part shows a melodic line with dynamic 'ff' and a forte dynamic 'ff' at the end.

Swaying

♩. = 66

C WAITING

129

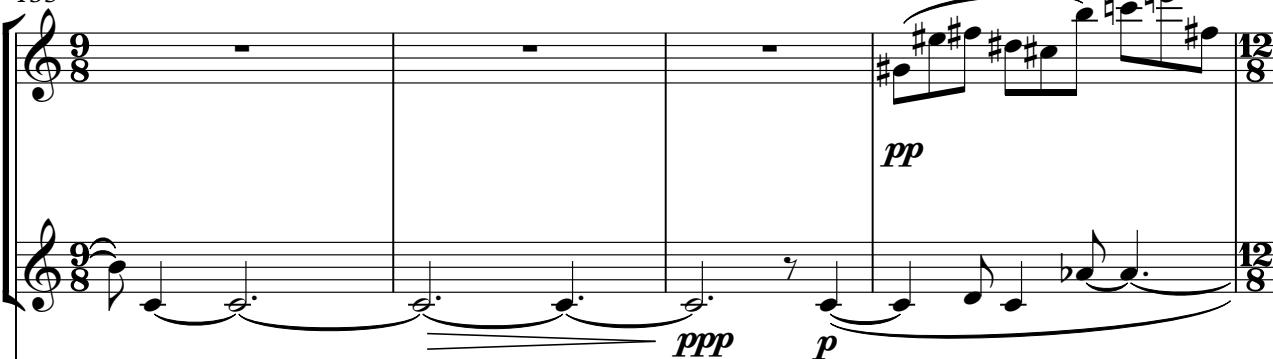
Vln. Vc. Pno.

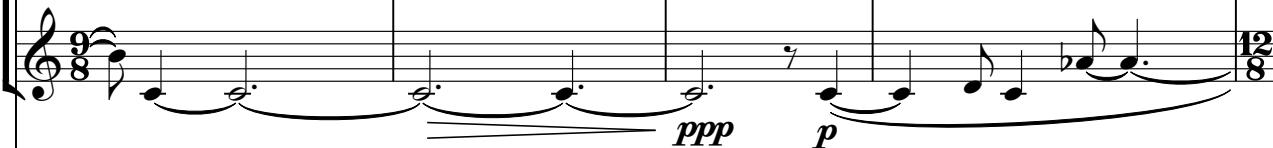
solo plain, stillness, non esp. H

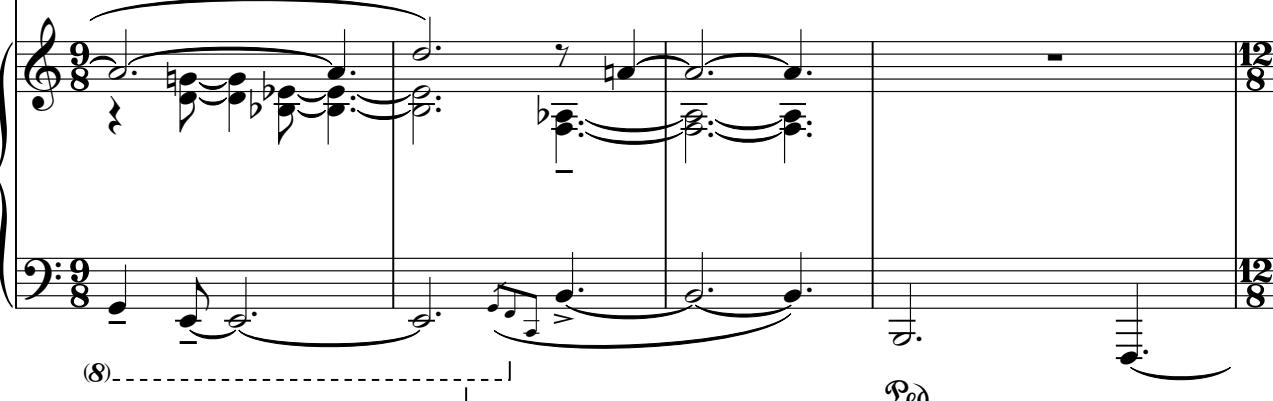
precise pp pp Swaying d. = 66 WAITING very light, transparent N

ppp pp ppp 8vb Ped.

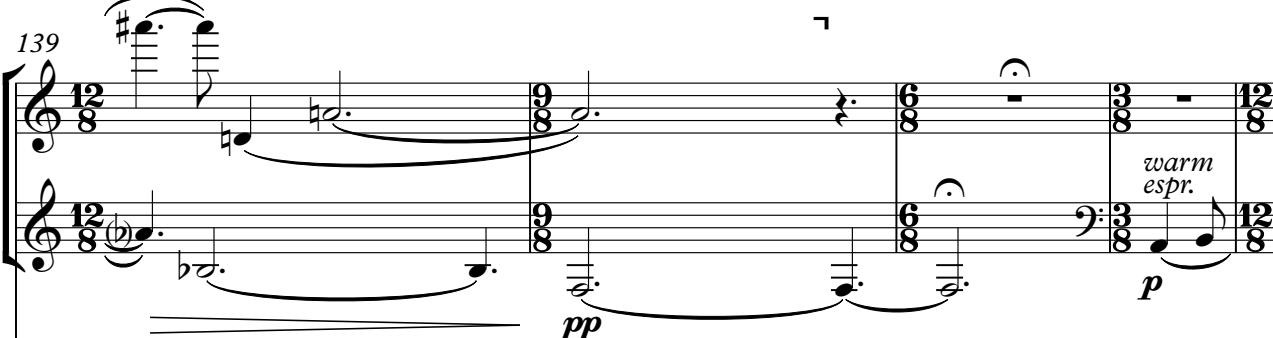
135

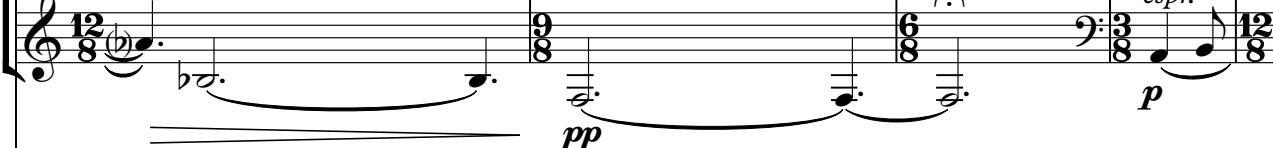
Vln. 

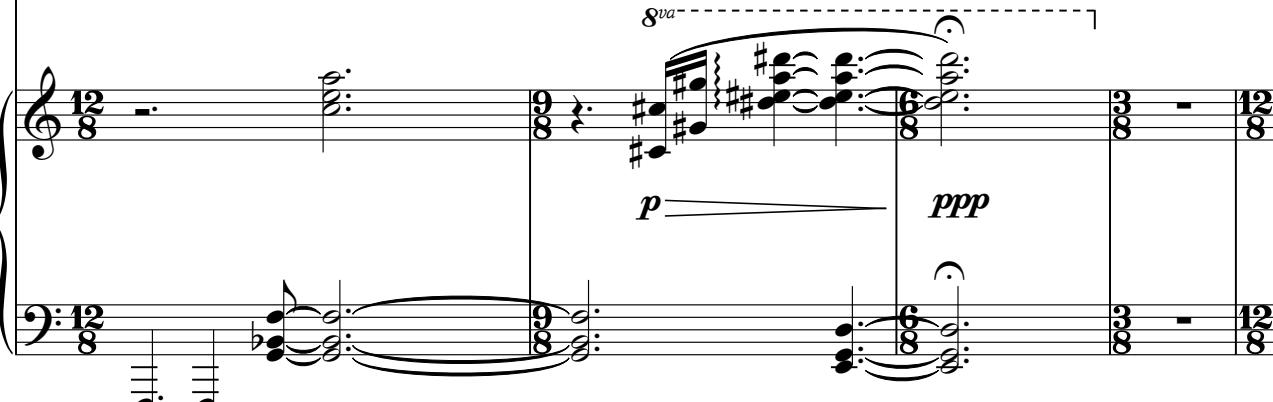
Vc. 

Pno. 

139

Vln. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

暖音

143

Vln. *warm*
ppp

Vc. *dark*
mp

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

147

Vln. *warm*
12/8

Vc. *warm*
12/8

Pno. *poco cresc.*
12/8

150

free bow

Vln. $\frac{12}{8}$

free bow

Vc. $\frac{12}{8}$

Pno. $\frac{12}{8}$

8va

pppp

Ped.

almost inaudible

more moving

$\frac{5}{8} \text{ } \frac{12}{8}$

$\frac{5}{8} \text{ } \frac{12}{8}$

DENTICING

piano cues

154

Vln. $\frac{12}{8}$

mf

Vc. $\frac{12}{8}$

mf

piano cues

ENTICING

piano cues

Pno. $\frac{12}{8} \# \frac{8}{8}$

mf

PPP twinkling

Ped.

156

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

non cresc.

non cresc.

simile

This musical score page contains two staves of music. The top staff is for the Violin (Vln.) and the bottom staff is for the Cello (Vc.). Both staves begin with a single note followed by a short melodic line. Measure 156 ends with a vertical bar line, and both staves continue with a similar melodic line. The instruction *non cresc.* appears twice, once above each melodic line. The piano part (Pno.) is shown below, consisting of two staves. It begins with a series of eighth-note chords, followed by a melodic line that continues across the measure line. The instruction *simile* is placed below the piano's melodic line.

158

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

This musical score page contains two staves of music. The top staff is for the Violin (Vln.) and the bottom staff is for the Cello (Vc.). Both staves begin with a single note followed by a short melodic line. Measure 158 ends with a vertical bar line, and both staves continue with a similar melodic line. The piano part (Pno.) is shown below, consisting of two staves. It begins with a series of eighth-note chords, followed by a melodic line that continues across the measure line.

very light, floating

159

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

Pno. *pp* *mp* *pp*

160

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. *mp*

©Cheng Jin Koh 2020

162

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *pp*

mf

Ped.

164

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *pp*

leggiero

Ped.

3 + 2

166

Vln. $\frac{5}{8}$ *ppp*

Vc. $\frac{5}{8}$ *pp* *mp*

Pno. $\frac{5}{8}$ *ppp*

simile

168

Vln. $\frac{4}{8}$ *mf*

Vc. $\frac{4}{8}$ *mf*

Pno. $\frac{4}{8}$ C

3 + 4 sul A

170

Vln. $\frac{7}{8}$

Vc. $\frac{3}{8}$ p

Pno. $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ p $pppp$ $\frac{3}{4}$

3

4

172

Vln. $\frac{3}{4}$

Vc. $\frac{3}{4}$

Pno. $\frac{3}{4}$ mf $\frac{7}{8}$

7

8

3

7

8

4 + 3

173

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

mf

2

3 + 4**H**

175

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f espr.

f espr.

mf

mp

2

177

Vln.

Vc. *mf*

Pno.

molto con passione

179

Vln. *f*

Vc. *molto con passione* *f*

Pno. *f*

molto con passione

5
8

5
8

5
8

3 + 2

181

Vln. $\begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{smallmatrix}$ *mp*

H

Vc. $\begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{smallmatrix}$ *mf*

Pno. $\begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{smallmatrix}$ *ppp*
 $\begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{smallmatrix}$ *ped. ad lib.*

184

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *mf*

legato but accented

186

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *mf*

rit. *ff* *free bow*

ff *rit.*

ff

ped. ad lib.

188

Vln. *free bow*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *fff* *unlimited* *mp*

Slow, freely
piano solo

192

Vln. Vc.

solo shimmering

ppp

Slow, freely
solo, exuberantly

8va

Pno.

f p *5 mf* *mp* *mf* *5 f*

improvisatory, approx.

195

Vln. Vc.

molto vib.

mp *6* *mf* *n*

Pno.

p

E THE KILL
. = 88

199 *solo*

gliss.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

THE KILL
. = 88

solo

mf

v.v.

f

v.v.

206

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

Ped.

212

Vln.

Vc.

emphasized

Musical score for piano and basso continuo. The piano part (top system) starts with a treble clef, two sharps, and a bass clef, one sharp. It features a series of eighth-note chords and rests. The basso continuo part (bottom system) starts with a bass clef, one sharp, and a bass clef, one sharp. It includes a bassoon part with sustained notes and a cello part with sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 11 ends with a fermata over the piano's eighth-note chord. Measure 12 begins with a bassoon solo section. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords and rests. The basso continuo part concludes with a bassoon solo section.

Musical score for Violin (Vln.) and Cello (Vc.) at measure 219. The key signature is one sharp. The Violin part consists of six measures. The first measure starts with a sixteenth-note pattern followed by eighth-note pairs. The second measure features a sixteenth-note pattern with a grace note. The third measure shows a sixteenth-note pattern with a grace note. The fourth measure is a pizzicato section. The fifth measure is an arco section. The sixth measure concludes with an arco section. The Cello part follows a similar pattern, starting with a sixteenth-note pattern followed by eighth-note pairs. The second measure features a sixteenth-note pattern with a grace note. The third measure shows a sixteenth-note pattern with a grace note. The fourth measure is a pizzicato section. The fifth measure is an arco section. The sixth measure concludes with an arco section. Measure numbers 219 and 220 are indicated above the staves.

A musical score for piano (Pno.) on two staves. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a tempo marking of eighth note = 88. The bottom staff shows a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a tempo marking of eighth note = 88. The score consists of six measures. Measure 1: The piano plays a sustained chord in the treble clef staff, while the bass clef staff has a bass note with a 'v.' below it. Measure 2: The piano plays a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble clef staff, starting with a forte dynamic (f). Measure 3: The piano plays a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble clef staff, continuing from the previous measure. Measure 4: The piano plays a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble clef staff, followed by a forte dynamic (ff). Measure 5: The piano plays a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble clef staff, followed by a forte dynamic (ff). Measure 6: The piano plays a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble clef staff, ending with a bass note in the bass clef staff.

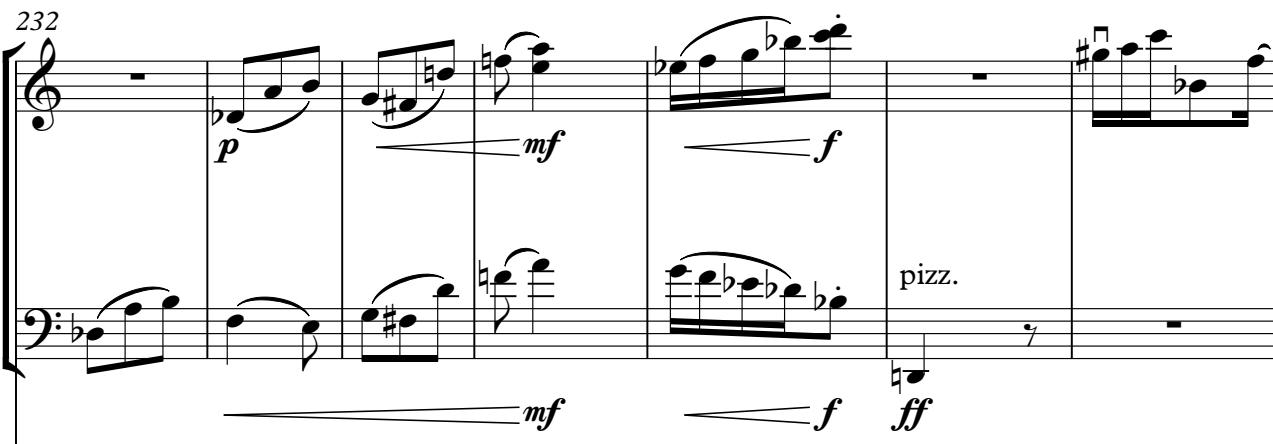
225

Vln. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

232

Vln. 

Vc.

Pno. 

239

Vln. arco pizz. arco $\frac{3}{8}$

Vc. mf ff

Pno. f $8va$ break

244

Vln. $\frac{3}{8}$ pp

Vc. f arco

Pno. pp Ped. $ped ad lib.$

Musical score for strings and piano, page 249. The score consists of three staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vln.) in treble clef, showing sixteenth-note patterns with slurs and dynamic markings *mp* and *p*. The middle staff is for the Cello (Vc.) in bass clef, also with sixteenth-note patterns and slurs. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), with two systems of music. The first system for the piano shows eighth-note patterns in the treble clef staff and sixteenth-note patterns in the bass clef staff. The second system shows more complex sixteenth-note patterns with slurs and grace notes in both treble and bass clefs. A dynamic marking *free bow* is placed between the two systems of the piano part.

255

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

261

Vln. *mf*

Vc.

Pno. *p*

p *mf* *pp* *Ped.*

267

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f

mf *f*

Dance-like

 $\text{♩} = 96$

45

273

Vln. 

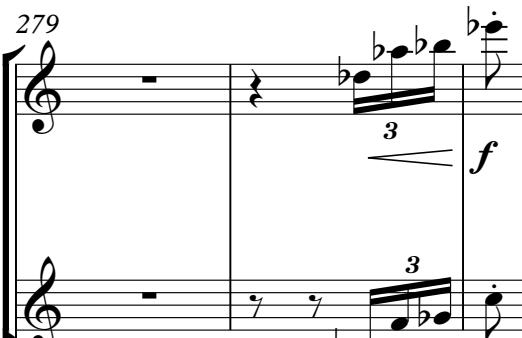
Vc. 

Pno. 

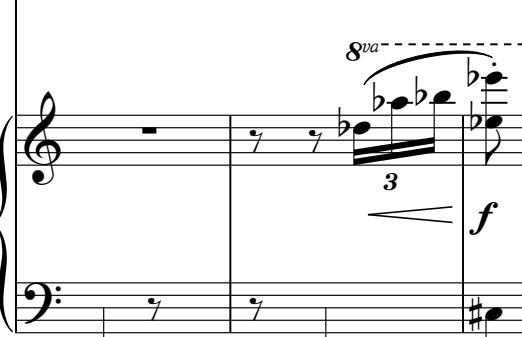
pp 3 *pp* 3 *pp* 3



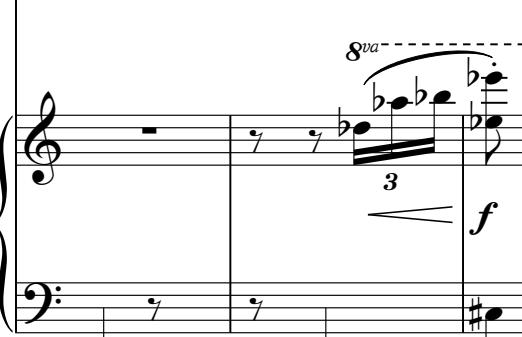
279

Vln. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

f *sfp* *f* *sfp*

8va 

mf 



285

Vln. *fff*

Vc. *H* *drunkenly*

Pno. *mf* — *f*

N *legato*

pp *f*

292

Vln.

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *pp*

H

f

mp

299

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.
marcato, penetrative

arco

f

ff

pizz.
marcato, penetrative

ff

ff

marcato, penetrative

v.

304

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.
arco

ff

pizz.

arco

v.

309

Vln. arco

Vc. pizz. arco

Pno.

314

Vln. f p mp scurrying away

Vc. mp scurrying away

Pno. mp

320

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

pizz.

mp

tr

scurrying away

325 (b)

Vln.

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *legato*

p

tr

(tr.)

329 Vln. $\frac{3}{4}$ p

Vc. $\frac{3}{4}$ f

Pno. $\frac{3}{4}$ ppp

$\frac{3}{4}$ sf

pizz.

arco 8^{va}

334 Vln. mf

Vc. arco mp

pizz. f

arco pizz. ff

Pno. mp

f

ff