

UCLA

Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Azure

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Full Score

AZURE

for Viola and Piano

(2019)

Luis Ramirez

AZURE

photos by Luis Ramirez



I. Wheatfield



II. Whiteout



III. Borealis



IV. Sunglow

AZURE

2019

1

for Viola and Piano

Duration: 21 minutes

Commissioned by David Wilson for AugustFest 2019

Azure is the color of the sky in one of its deepest forms of blue. In this work, the sky's leitmotif is present throughout the movements in the shape of high-pitched harmonies and arpeggios on the piano and serves as the backdrop for the constantly morphing landscapes.

This piece follows the traditional seasonal structure of a school year in Manitoba that similarly moves continuously on a cycle: painfully short autumn, terribly bitter winter, followed by a second winter, and a suddenly fiery summer.

Azure is like a fast-paced road trip over the Manitoban prairies, driving swiftly through its seasons, colors, and scenery.

I. Wheatfield

A serene and melancholic landscape of flowing wheat and dancing clouds filled with energy, that get prematurely subdued.

II. Whiteout

An impetuous blizzard drowns the landscape with massive flurries of snow, turning it into a gelid nightmare of commotion and uncertainty.

III. Borealis

The landscape is left in a bleak and sorrowful state, and as the snow continues to fall, iridescent snowflakes coalesce with the scintillating beauty of northern lights in the sky.

IV. Sunglow

A slowly rising sun turns the landscape into a shifting gradient of light and warmth, constantly increasing in energy, brightness, and life.

*This movement uses a version of the traditional Métis fiddle tune *Red River Jig*, recorded by Winnipeg fiddler Reg Bouvette.

Accidentals always last for the entire duration of the bar, but sometimes are repeated for cautionary reasons.
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AZURE

for viola and piano

Full Score

I. Wheatfield

Luis Ramirez (b.1992)

Serene ♩ = 40

Viola

Piano

mf *f* *pp* *ppp*

pp 3

6 **A**

Vla.

Pno.

mf *f* *ppp* *p* *pp*

sul tasto *p* 3 ord.

10 **B**

Vla.

Pno.

pp *mp* *pp*

(trill speed) *tr* 3

8vb-1

I. Wheatfield
Full Score

C Idyllic ♩ = 70

14

Vla. 3

Pno.

pp

ppp

pp

p

19

Vla. **A tempo** pizz. *p*

Pno. **poco rit.** *pp* *p*

8^{va}

8^{va}

24

Vla. **D** Rustic arco *mp* *espressivo* 3 5 3

Pno. *pp* *p*

8^{va}

29

Vla. *sub. p*

Pno. *pp*

I. Wheatfield
Full Score

4 34

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *p* *pp*

38 **E** Buoyant ♩ = 70 pizz. *mf*

Pno. *legato mp* *8vb* *8va* *simile*

41 *mp*

Pno. *(8)*

44 **F** *mf* *f* *sub p*

Pno. *(8)*

I. Wheatfield
Full Score

5

47 *arco* *ord.*

Vla. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

(8)

51 *sul pont.* *ord.* **G** Capricious

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf* *no pedal*

(8)

55 *sffz*

Vla.

Pno. *ff* *mf*

8va

H ♩ = 140

58

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *mp*

I. Wheatfield
Full Score

6

62

Vla. *mp*

Pno. *mf* *f*

65

Vla. *mp*

Pno. *sub mp*

69

Vla. *mf* *f*

Pno. *pp* *p* *light*

73

Vla.

Pno. *p* *mf*

I. Wheatfield
Full Score

J Whimsical

7

76

Vla. *pizz.* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *mf* *f*

79 *pizz.* *f*

Pno. *sf* *sf* *sf*

81 *più f*

Pno. *f* *sf* *sf* *sf*

83 *arco* *f* *pp*

Pno. *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

I. Wheatfield
Full Score

8

86

Vla.

Pno.

89 arco

Vla.

Pno.

ff *mf*

mp

1

93

Vla.

Pno.

natural harmonic

pp

pp

attaca

II. Whiteout

9

Tempestuous ♩ = 80

Viola

pp *static*

Piano

ppp

8^{vb}

6

Vla.

2 3

Pno.

f 2 3 *ff*

15

Vla.

pp *f*

Pno.

8^{vb}

19

Vla.

p *mf*

Pno.

sfz 8^{vb}

II. Whiteout
Full Score

10

A

23 sul C
sul pont.

Vla. *f*

Pno. *pp* *mf*

27

sul pont. → ord.

Vla.

Pno. *pp*

31

Vla.

Pno. *p* *mf* *pp* *ff*

35

sul pont.

Vla. *f* *mf*

Pno. *pp*

II. Whiteout
Full Score

11

39 sul pont.

Vla.

Pno. *pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 39 to 42. The Viola part is in 6/8 time, featuring a melodic line with a 'sul pont.' (sul ponticello) instruction starting at measure 40. The Piano part is in 6/8 time, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes with a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic.

43 → ord.

Vla.

Pno. *mf* *p* *ff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 43 to 46. Measure 43 has a '43 → ord.' instruction. The Viola part continues its melodic line. The Piano part features dynamics *mf* (measures 43-44), *p* (measures 45-46), and *ff* (measure 46). The time signature changes from 6/8 to 3/8 at the end of measure 46.

47 **B**

Vla. *f marcato*

Pno. *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 47 to 50. Measure 47 has a section marker 'B'. The Viola part is marked *f marcato* and features a series of sixteenth-note patterns. The Piano part has a *mf* dynamic in the right hand and a *p* dynamic in the left hand, both playing eighth-note patterns. The time signature is 6/8.

50

Vla.

Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 50 to 53. The Viola part continues with its melodic line. The Piano part continues with the same eighth-note patterns in both hands, maintaining the *mf* and *p* dynamics. The time signature remains 6/8.

II. Whiteout
Full Score

12

53

Vla. *legato*
f

Pno. *pp*

56

Vla. *f*

Pno. *f* *fff* *mf* *sfz* *mp*

Ⓒ

59

Vla.

Pno. *mf*

62

Vla. *più f*

Pno. *molto cresc.* *f*

65 **(D)** sul C

Vla. *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Pno. *pp* *f*

69

Vla. *ff* *simile*

Pno. *p*

73

Vla. *pp* *ff* *f* *gliss.*

Pno. *mf*

77 **(E)**

Vla. *fff* *f*

Pno. *pp* *ff* *8vb*

II. Whiteout
Full Score

14

81

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

85

Vla. *p* *fff*

Pno. *mf* *p*

89

Vla. **F** Cold pizz. *mp*

Pno. *ff* *pp* *molto*

95

Vla.

Pno. *pp* *n*

II. Whiteout
Full Score

15

101 *sul pont.*
arco **G**

Vla. *pp* *mf*

Pno. *pp* *pp* *molto* *Red.*

108 *ord.* **H** *f* *più f*

Vla.

Pno. (8) *mf*

114 (8) *pp* *n* *pp*

Vla.

Pno. *pp*

119 **I** *p* *pp non espress.*

Vla.

Pno. *Red.*

II. Whiteout
Full Score

16

126

Vla.

Pno.

mf *ppp* *molto cresc.* *f* *ff*

no cresc.

132

Vla.

Pno.

mf *molto espressivo*

pp

Red

137

Vla.

Pno.

143

Vla.

Pno.

p

II. Whiteout
Full Score

17

149

Vla. *f*

Pno. *mp*

155

Vla. *mp*

Pno. *p*

K Shivering

161

Vla. *ppp* *f* *p* *ppp* *2*

Pno. *2*

sul pont.

169

Vla.

Pno. *n* *ppp* *pp*

II. Whiteout
Full Score

18

L

176 ord.

Vla.

ff subito

Pno.

ff

f

(8)

3

3

3

3

3

179

Vla.

Pno.

3

3

3

3

182

Vla.

Pno.

8va

8va

3

3

3

3

3

II. Whiteout
Full Score

M Harrowing

19

185

Vla. *fff*

Pno. *fff*

8^{vb}

189

Vla.

Pno.

193 **N**

Vla. *ff*

Pno. *legato*
f

with *Red.*

196

Vla.

Pno.

II. Whiteout
Full Score

20

0

sul C

199

Vla. *pp* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Pno. *ff*

202

Vla. *ff* *p* *ff* *simile*

Pno.

205

Vla.

Pno.

208

Vla. *fff* *fff* *pizz.*

Pno. *ffff* *no ped.*

211

Vla.

Pno.

215

Vla.

Pno.

P Overwhelming

arco

n *p* *f*

pppp *pp*

219

Vla.

Pno.

ff *fff* *f*

mp *fff*

drown the sound of the viola

222 sul tasto

Vla.

Pno.

p *n*

as loud as possible

gliss.

gliss.

8vb

attaca

III. Borealis

Gelid ♩ = 50

natural harmonics
on open strings

Viola

Piano

like iridescent snowflakes

sempre pp

legato

monotonous

always

10

Vla.

Pno.

18

Vla.

Pno.

25

Vla.

Pno.

A

B

C

8va

9

(8)

III. Borealis
Full Score

D Bleak

23

34

Vla.

Pno.

40

Vla.

Pno.

44

Vla.

Pno.

49

Vla.

Pno.

III. Borealis
Full Score

24

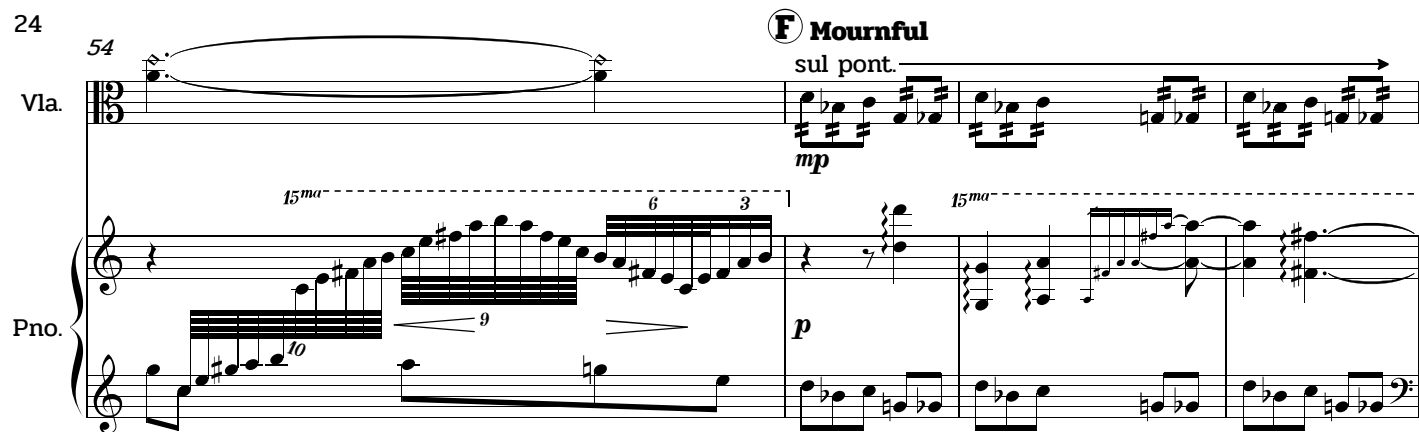
54 **F** Mournful
sul pont.
mp

Vla.

Pno.

15^{ma} 6 3 1 15^{ma}

9 10 *p*

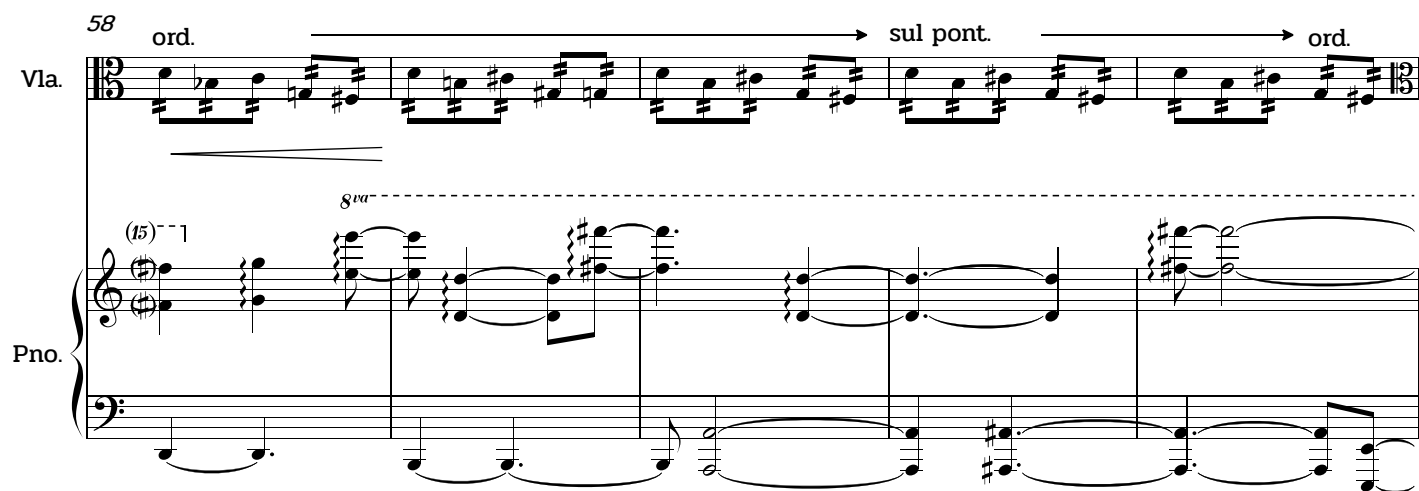


58 ord. sul pont. ord.

Vla.

Pno.

8^{va} (15) 1

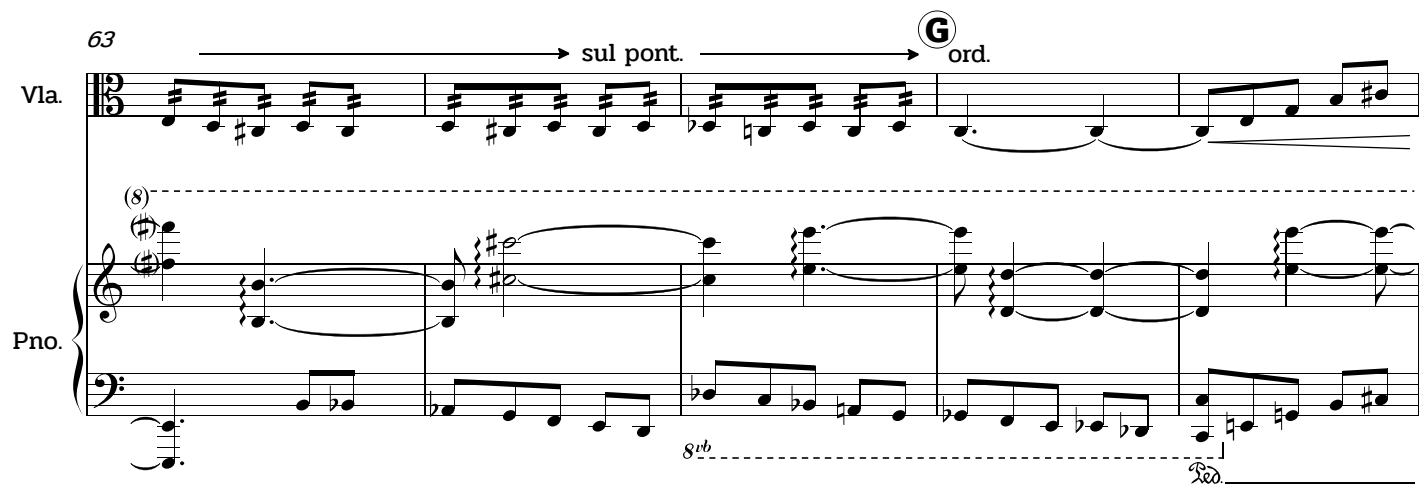


63 sul pont. **G** ord.

Vla.

Pno.

(8) 8^{vb} Red



68 *f* accel.

Vla.

Pno.

(8) 15^{ma}



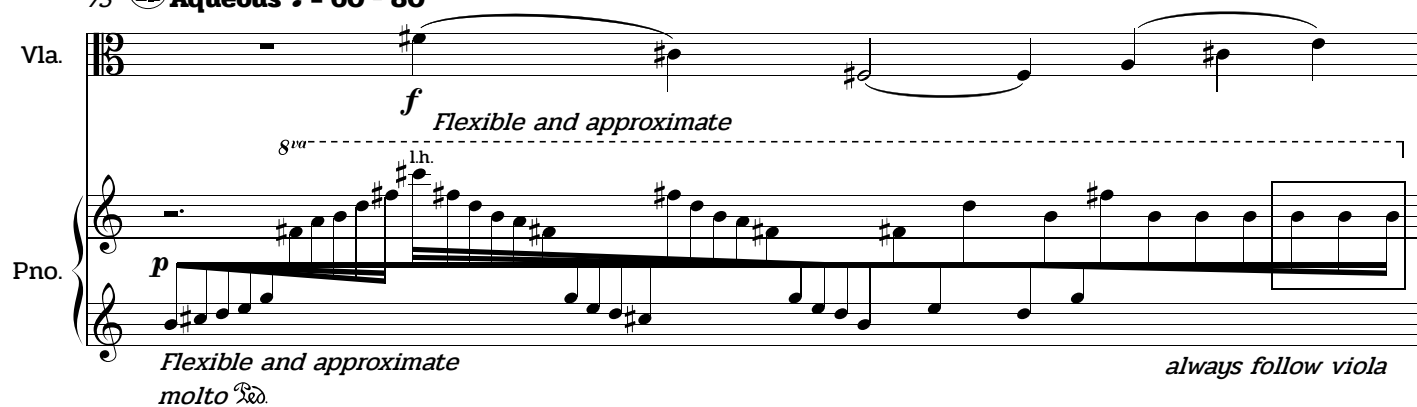
III. Borealis
Full Score

25

73 **H** Aqueous ♩ = 60 - 80

Vla. *f* Flexible and approximate

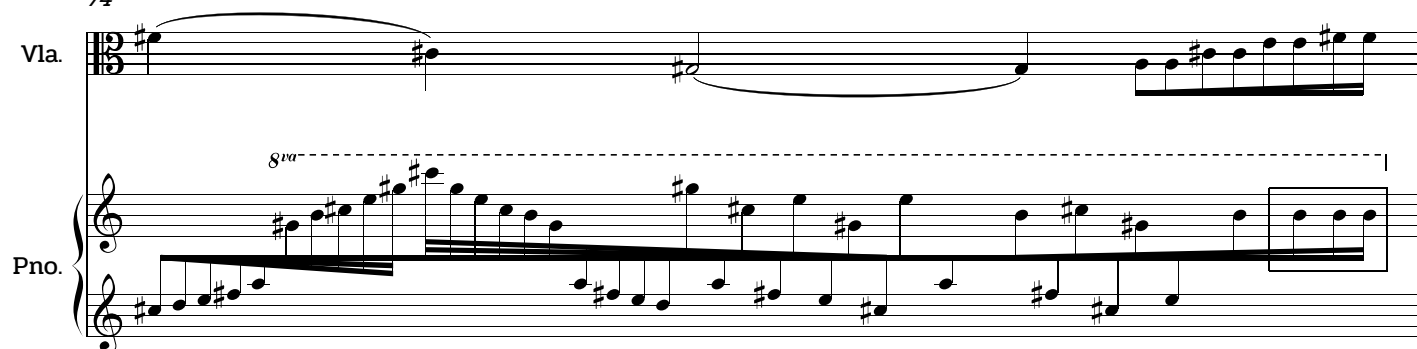
Pno. *p* Flexible and approximate *molto* *Red.* always follow viola



74

Vla.

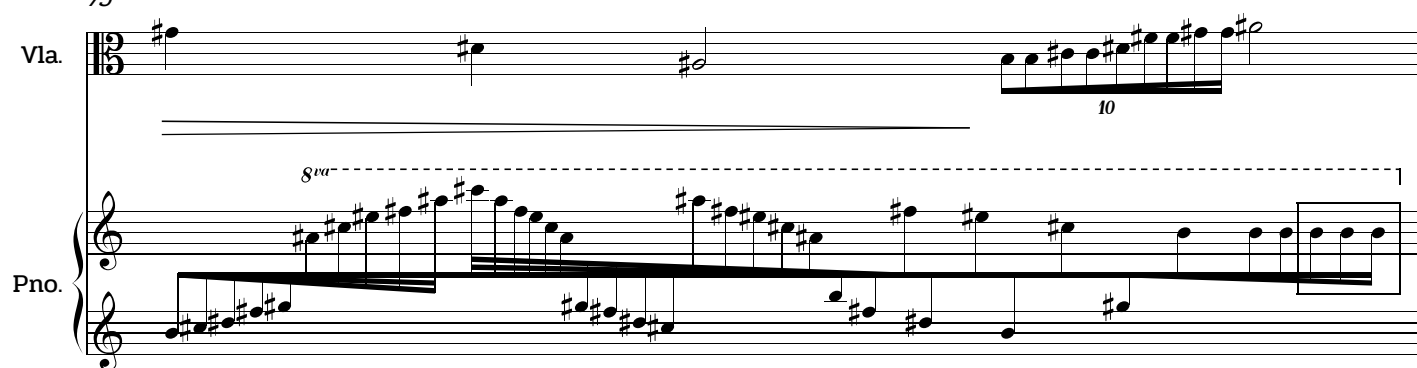
Pno.



75

Vla.

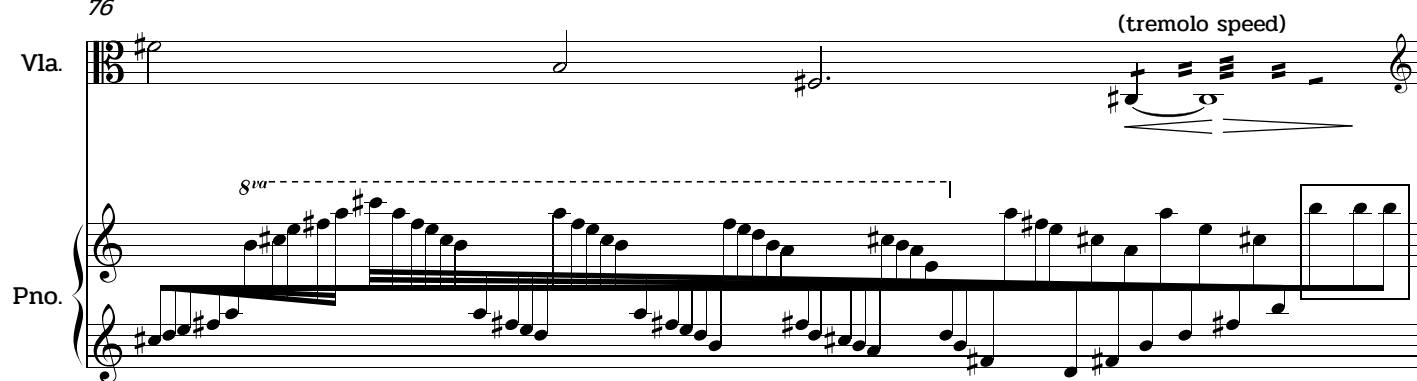
Pno.



76

Vla. (tremolo speed)

Pno.



III. Borealis
Full Score

26

77 **I**

Vla. *f*

Pno. *mf*

18

78

Vla.

Pno.

6

79

Vla. *gliss.*

Pno.

gliss.

80

Vla. **J** **Ethereal** ♩ = 50
con sord.

Pno. *pp* *mp* *pp* *molto* *red.*

III. Borealis
Full Score

82 27

Vla.

Pno.

83

Vla.

Pno.

84

Vla.

Pno.

85

Vla.

Pno.

86

Vla.

Pno.

K

f

p

mf

f

III. Borealis
Full Score

28

L Placid ♩ = 50

87 *ff* *gliss.*

89 *n* *pp* *p* *senza sord.* *pizz.* *pp*

92

94 *rit.* *n* *ppp* *attaca*

IV. Sunglow

29

Warm ♩ = 60 Always Gradually Accelerating (♩ = 60 - 130) -->

very flexible and expressive

Viola

very rhythmically steady

mp

Piano

ppp

cresc.

Red

4

Vla.

3

3

Pno.

pp

7

Vla.

3

5

Pno.

p

9

Vla.

3

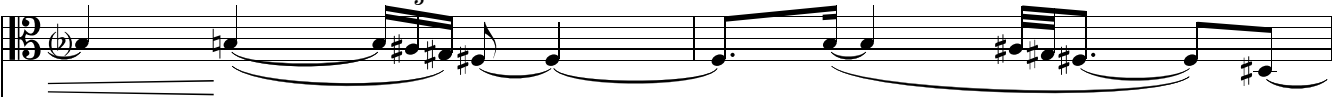
3

mf

Pno.

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

30 12 **A**

Vla. 

Pno. 
mp *cresc.*

14

Vla. 
f

Pno. 

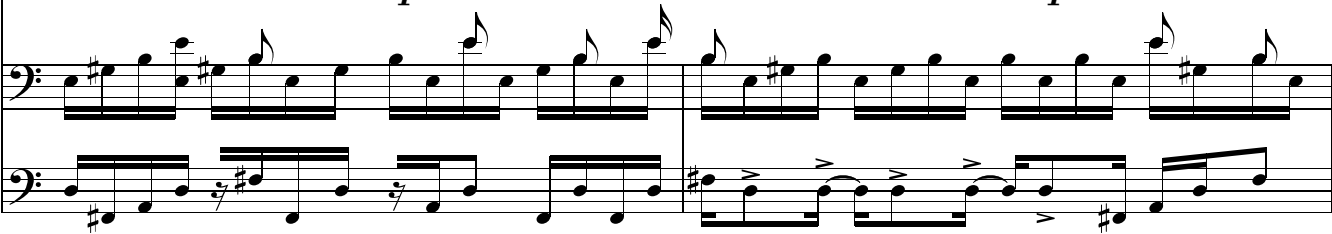
16 **B** Expansive ♩ = 70

Vla. 

Pno. 
mf *cresc.*

19

Vla. 
mp *mp*

Pno. 

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

31

21

Vla. mp mp mf mf f

Pno. f

24 **C**

Vla. mp pp

Pno. mp pp

no Pedal

29 **D** Dazzling ♩ = 80

Vla. mp *marcatissimo* f

Pno. p *staccato* *sub f*

35

Vla. mp sf sf sf

Pno. p

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

32

40 **E**

Vla. *mf sf sf sf sf sf sf*

Pno. *p*

Measures 40-44. Viola part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *mf* and *sf*. Piano accompaniment consists of chords and eighth notes, marked with *p*.

45

Vla. *mp sf sf sf sf*

Pno.

Measures 45-49. Viola part continues with slurs and accents, marked with *mp* and *sf*. Piano accompaniment continues with chords and eighth notes.

50 **F**

Vla. *f*

Pno. *cresc.*

Measures 50-54. Viola part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *f*. Piano accompaniment features a *cresc.* and includes a key signature change to one flat.

55 **G**

Vla. *f*

Pno. *mf*

Measures 55-59. Viola part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *f*. Piano accompaniment features chords and eighth notes, marked with *mf*.

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

H Ardent ♩ = 90

33

61

Vla. *sf* *p* *f*

Pno. *sub p* *mp*

65

Vla.

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

69

Vla. *sf* *mf*

Pno. *f*

73

Vla. *ff* *mf* *ff* *f*

Pno. *cresc.*

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

34 **J** Burning ♩ = 100

78

Vla. *ff*

Pno. *ff* *simile*

82

Vla. pizz. arco pizz. **K** arco

Pno.

85

Vla. pizz. arco pizz. arco

Pno.

88

Vla. *f* pizz. arco *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf*

L Luminous ♩ =110

92

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *mf*

Pno. *mp*

M Resplendent

95

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *ff* *pizz.*

Pno. *ff*

98

Vla. *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

Pno. *f*

101

Vla. *fff*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

36

N Vivid ♩ = 120

104

Vla. *f*

Pno. *mf*

107

Vla.

Pno.

O Energetic

109

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

112

Vla. **P** *f*

Pno. *f*

IV. Sunglow
Full Score

Q Brilliant ♩ = 126

37

115

Vla. *fff*

Pno.

118

Vla.

Pno.

120

Vla. *p* *f*

Pno. *ppp* *p*

123

Vla. *fff*

Pno. *f* *ff* *mf* *fff*