

# **UCLA**

## **Contemporary Music Score Collection**

### **Title**

Azure

### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7pr8v680>

### **Author**

Ramirez, Luis

### **Publication Date**

2020

### **Copyright Information**

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

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

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.

For Greg Hay and Donna Laube

# AZURE

for viola and piano

Full Score

## I. Wheatfield

Luis Ramirez (b.1992)

Serene  $\text{♩} = 40$

Viola

Piano

*pp*  $^3$

*mf* *f* *pp*

*ppp*

*p*

*ped.*

Vla.

Pno.

*sul tasto*

*ord.*

*p*

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

*pp*

Vla.

Pno.

(trill speed)

*tr*  $^3$

*pp* *mp* *pp*

*8vb*

I. Wheatfield  
Full Score

14

**C** Idyllic ♩ = 70

Vla.

Pno.

3

pp

pp

p

19

A tempo

pizz.

Vla.

Pno.

poco rit.

p

pp

pp

p

24

**D** Rustic

arco

Vla.

Pno.

mp

espressivo

8th

29

Vla.

Pno.

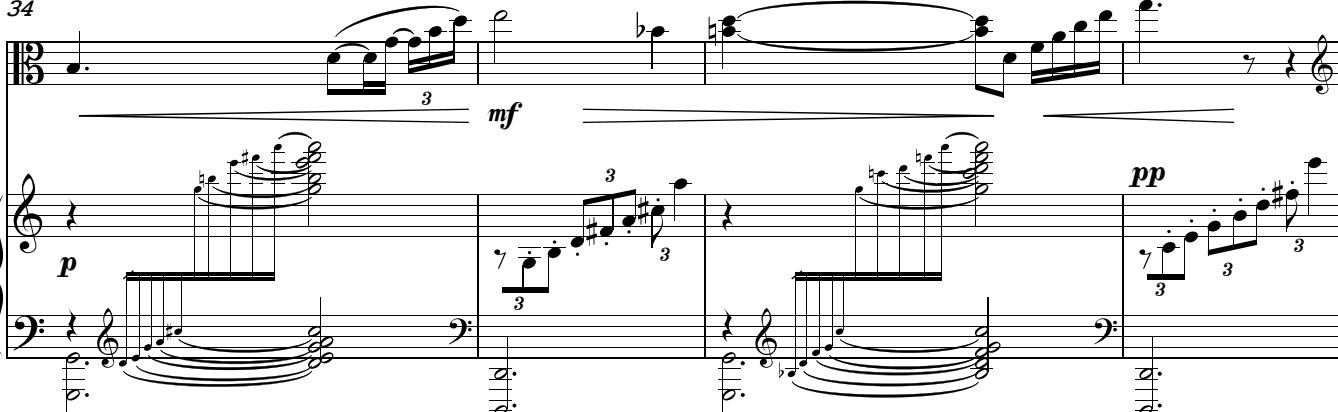
sub. p

pp

8th

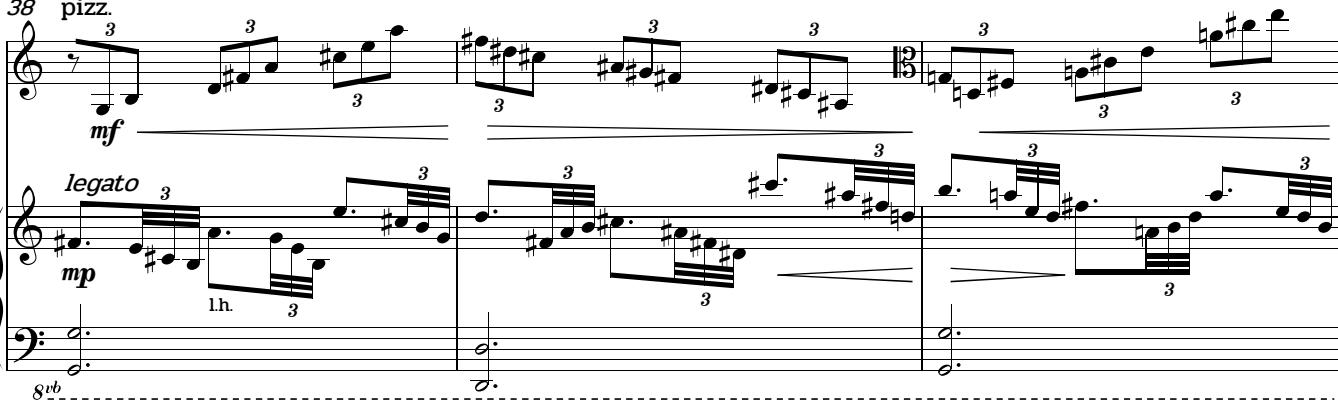
I. Wheatfield  
Full Score

4 34

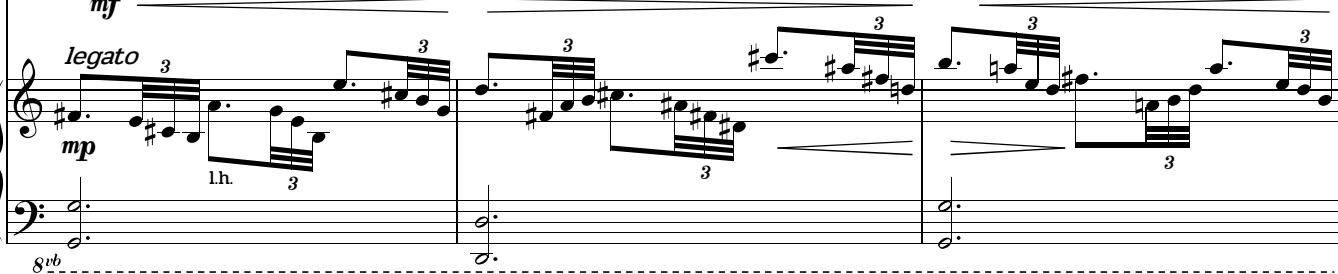
Vla. 

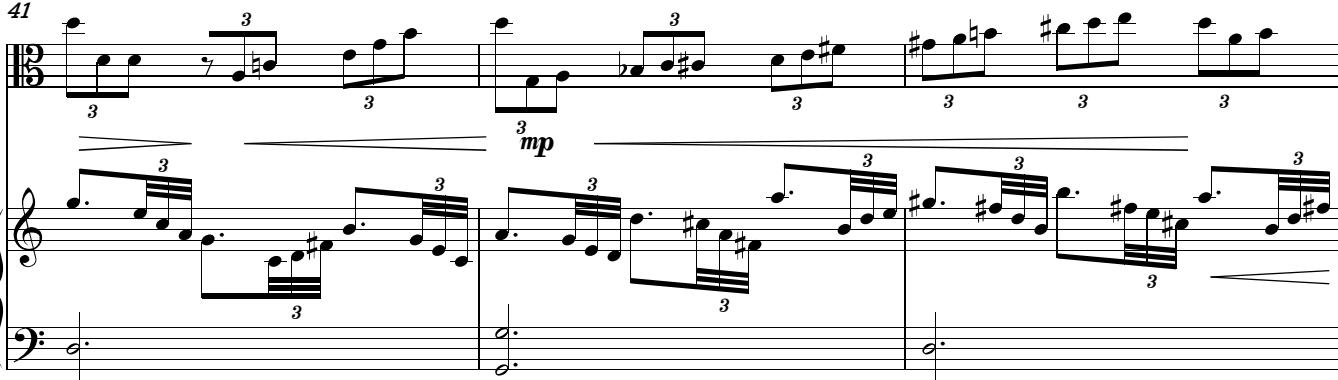
Pno. 

(E) Buoyant ♩ = 70

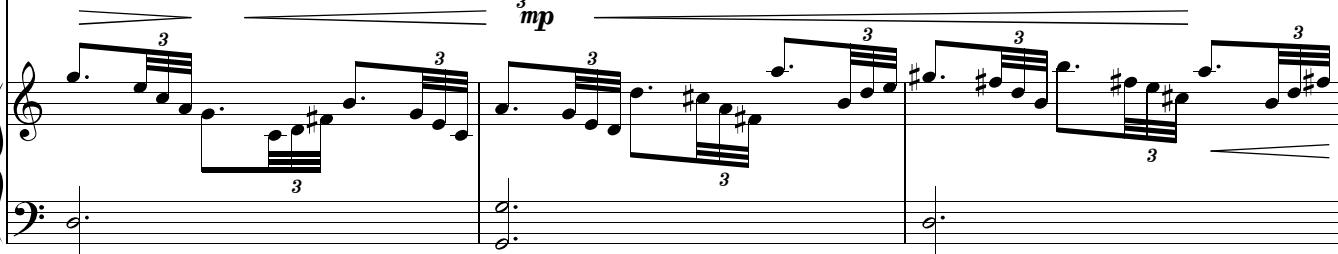
38 pizz. 

Vla. 

Pno. 

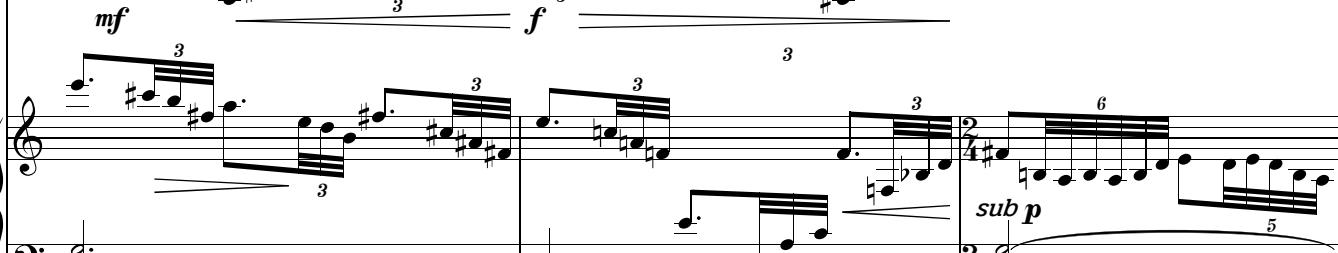
41 

Vla. 

Pno. 

44 

Vla. 

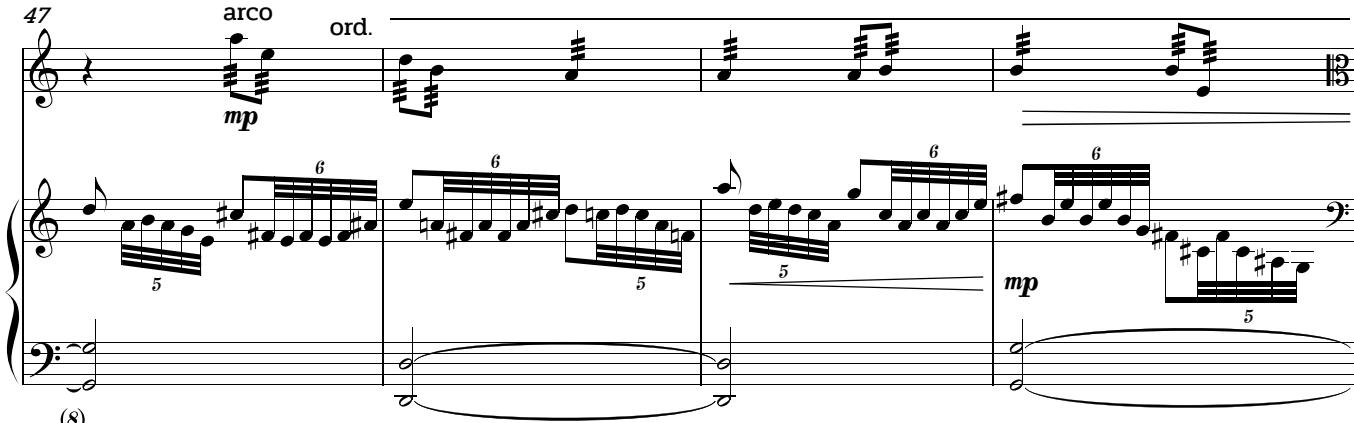
Pno. 

(F)

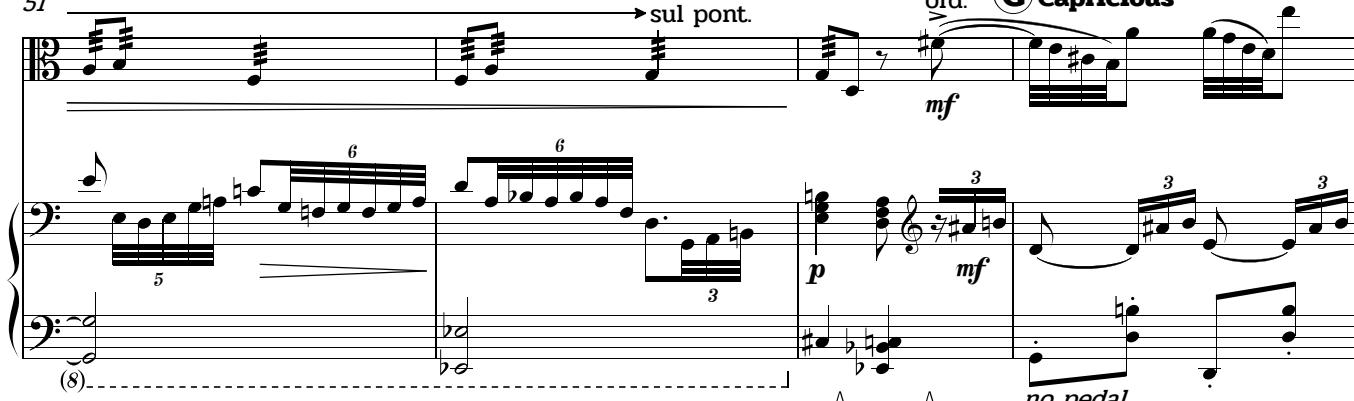
I. Wheatfield  
Full Score

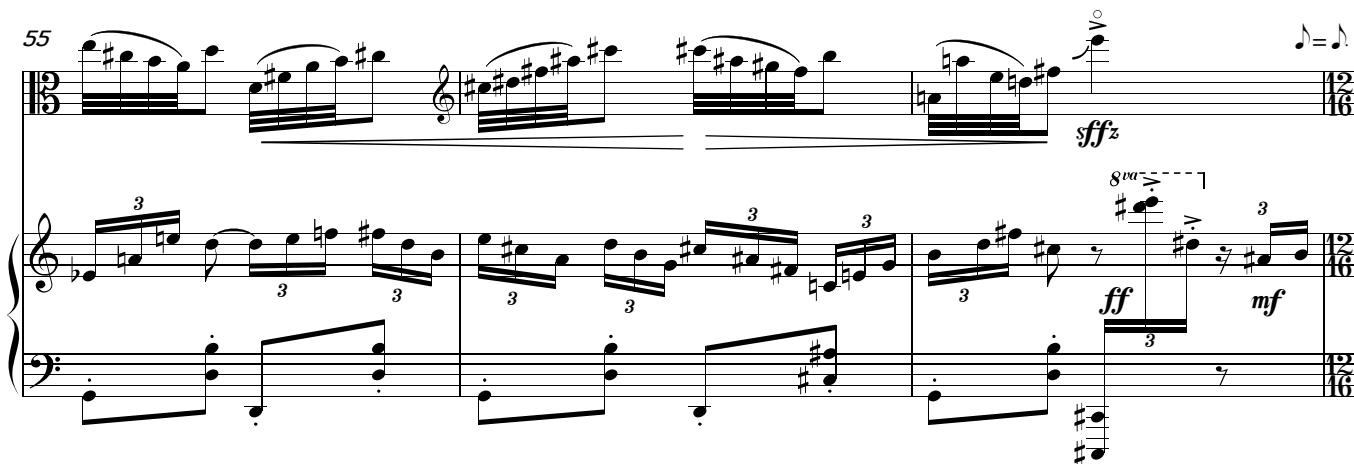
5

47 arco ord.

Vla. 

51 → sul pont. ord. **G Capricious**

Vla. 

55 

58 **(H)** ♩. = 140

Vla. 

I. Wheatfield  
Full Score

6

62

Vla.   
Pno.   
The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which plays eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings *mp* and *f*. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which plays sixteenth-note patterns with dynamics *mf* and *f*. Measure 62 ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

65

Vla.   
Pno.   
The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which plays eighth-note patterns with dynamics *mp* and *f*. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which plays sixteenth-note patterns with dynamics *sub mp* and *f*. Measure 65 ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

69

Vla.   
Pno.   
The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which plays eighth-note patterns with dynamics *mf* and *f*. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which plays sixteenth-note patterns with dynamics *pp* and *p*. Measure 69 ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

73

Vla.   
Pno.   
The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which plays eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which plays sixteenth-note patterns with dynamics *p* and *mf*.

I. Wheatfield  
Full Score

7

J Whimsical

76 pizz. ff

Vla. Pno.

79 pizz. f

Vla. Pno.

81 più f f

Vla. Pno.

83 arco f pp

Vla. Pno.

76 pizz. ff

Vla. Pno.

79 pizz. f

Vla. Pno.

81 più f f

Vla. Pno.

83 arco f pp

Vla. Pno.

I. Wheatfield  
Full Score

8

86

Vla.

Pno.

This section contains two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The Vla. part consists of six measures of sixteenth-note patterns. The Pno. part consists of three measures of eighth-note chords. Measure 86 ends with a fermata over the piano's eighth-note chord. Measures 87 and 88 continue the piano's eighth-note chords. Measure 89 begins with an arco dynamic for the Vla. and ff dynamic for the Pno. The piano part then has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to mf.

89 arco

Vla.

Pno.

This section continues from the previous one. The Vla. part starts with an arco dynamic. The piano part has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to mf. Measure 90 begins with a dynamic ff for the Vla. and a dynamic mp for the Pno. The piano part then has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to mp. Measure 91 begins with a dynamic ff for the Vla. and a dynamic mp for the Pno. The piano part then has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to mp.

93

Vla.

Pno.

This section continues from the previous one. The Vla. part starts with a dynamic pp. The piano part has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to pp. Measure 94 begins with a dynamic pp for the Vla. and a dynamic attaca for the Pno. The piano part then has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to pp. Measure 95 begins with a dynamic pp for the Vla. and a dynamic attaca for the Pno. The piano part then has a measure of rests followed by a dynamic change to pp.

## II. Whiteout

9

**Tempestuous**  $\text{♩} = 80$

Viola

*pp*      *static*

Piano

*ppp*

2      3

2      3

*8vb*      *ff*

Vla.

6      2      3

Pno.

2      3

2      3

*f*      *ff*

Vla.

15

*pp*      *f*

*8vb*      *ff*

Vla.

19

*p*      *mf*

*sfz*      *8vb*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

10

A

23 sul C  
sul pont.

Vla. 

Pno. 

*Ré*

27

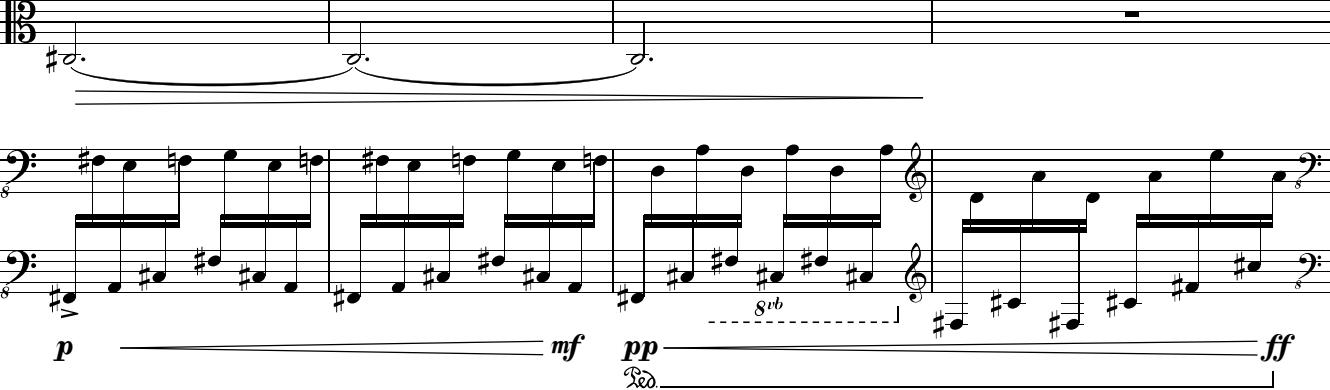
sul pont.

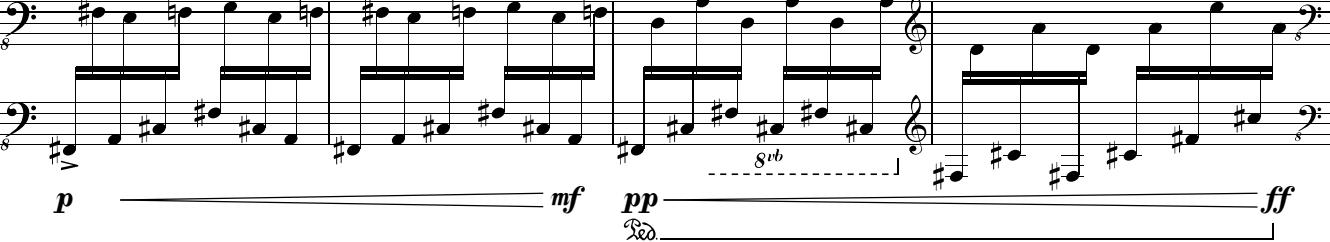
→ ord.

Vla. 

Pno. 

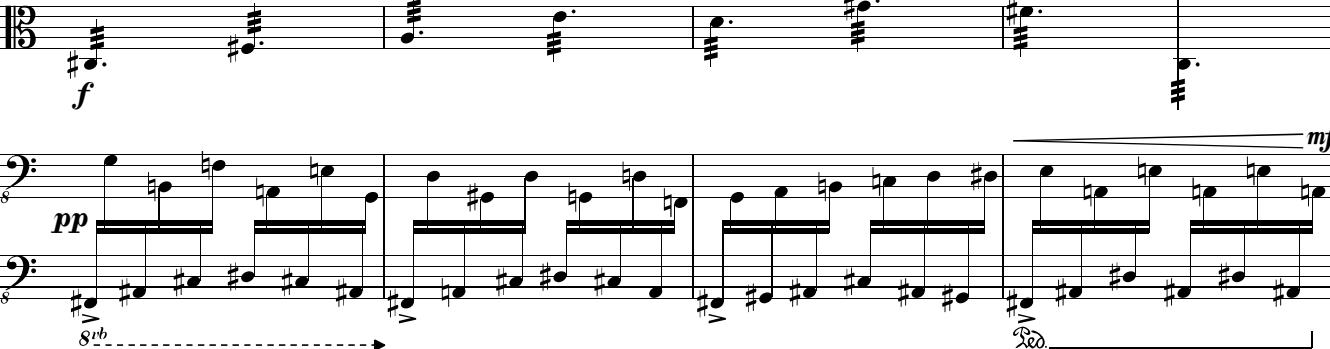
31

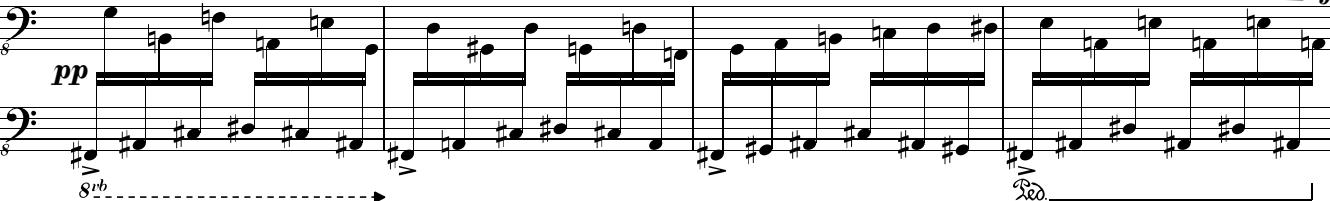
Vla. 

Pno. 

35

sul pont.

Vla. 

Pno. 

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

11

39

sul pont.

Vla.

Pno. *pp*

43 → ord.

Vla.

Pno. *mf* *p* *ff* *Poco*

47 (B)

Vla. *f marcato*

Pno. *mf* *p*

50

Vla.

Pno. *mf*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

12

53

Vla.

Pno.

*legato*  
*f*

*8va*

*pp*

*8*

*8*

*8*

*8*

56

C

Vla.

Pno.

*f*

*(8)*

*fff*

*mf*

*sfz mp*

*8*

*8*

*8*

*8*

59

Vla.

Pno.

*8*

*8*

*mf*

*8*

62

Vla.

Pno.

*più f*

*molto cresc.*

*f*

*sfz*

*8*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

13

65

Vla.

(D) sul C

Pno.

*ff simile*

*f*

69

Vla.

Pno.

73

Vla.

Pno.

*gliss.*

*mf*

77

Vla.

(E)

Pno.

*8vb*

*pp*

*ff*

*8vb*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

14

81

Vla.

Pno.

mf

sul tasto → sul pont.

85

Vla.

Pno.

p

8vb

89

**F** Cold  
pizz.

Vla.

Pno.

ff

8va

pp

8va

(8) molto **Ad**

95

Vla.

Pno.

(8)

8 (8)

pp n

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

15

101

Vla. *sul pont.  
arco*

Pno.

*pp* *mf*

*pp* *pp* *molto* *ff*

108 *ord.*

Vla. *f* *più f*

Pno. *mf*

114

Vla. *p*

Pno. *pp* *n*

119 *I*

Vla. *p*

Pno. *pp non express.*

*ff*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

16

126

Vla.

Pno.

*mf*      *ppp*      *molto cresc.*      *f*  
*no cresc.*      *ff*

J

132

Vla.

Pno.

*mf* *molto espressivo*  
*15ma*

*pp*

*Reo.*

137

Vla.

Pno.

*(15)*

143

Vla.

Pno.

*(15)*

*p*

*8va*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

17

149

Vla. f

Pno. (8) mp

155

Vla. mp

Pno. (8) p

**K** Shivering

161 sul pont.

Vla. ppp f p ppp

Pno. 2 6 2 6

169

Vla. -

Pno. 8va n ppp pp

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

18

(L)

176 ord.

Vla. ff subito

ff subito

Pno.

(8)

f

ff

179

Vla.

Vla.

Pno.

3

3

3

182

Vla.

Vla.

Pno.

8va

8va

3

3

3

Ped.

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

19

**M** Harrowing

185

Vla. *fff*

Pno. *fff* *vib* ----->

189

Vla. *vib* -----> *B*

Pno. *vib* -----> *Ad.* ----->

193 **N**

Vla. *ff* *4*

Pno. *f* *legato* *8* *8* *8* *8* *with Ad.*

196

Vla. *4* *4* *4* *4* *4*

Pno. *8* *8* *8* *8*

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

20

199

Vla.

Pno.

(O) sul C

8 8 8 8

202

Vla.

Pno.

ff p < ff simile

8 8 8 8

205

Vla.

Pno.

8 8 8 8

208

Vla.

Pno.

pizz.

ffff ffff

no Red.

8 8

II. Whiteout  
Full Score

21

211

Vla.

Pno.

**P Overwhelming**

215 arco

Vla.

Pno.

219

Vla.

Pno.

222 sul tasto

Vla.

Pno.

## III. Borealis

**Gelid ♩ = 50**

natural harmonics  
on open strings

Viola

Piano

**p**      *monotonous*  
*like iridescent snowflakes*  
*sempre pp*      *legato*  
*always ↗*

Vla.

Pno.

10      **A**

Vla.

Pno.

18      **B**

Vla.

Pno.

8va      9      8va

25      **C**

Vla.

Pno.

(8)

III. Borealis  
Full Score

D Bleak

23

34

Vla.

Pno.

This section shows two staves. The top staff (Vla.) has a bass clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It features sustained notes with slurs and some eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff (Pno.) has a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It includes a dynamic marking '9' over a cluster of notes and a measure with a 5/8 time signature.

40

Vla.

Pno.

This section shows two staves. The top staff (Vla.) has a bass clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It features sustained notes with slurs and some eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff (Pno.) has a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It includes a dynamic marking '9' over a cluster of notes and a measure with a 5/8 time signature.

44

Vla.

Pno.

This section shows two staves. The top staff (Vla.) has a bass clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It features sustained notes with slurs and some eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff (Pno.) has a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It includes a dynamic marking '9' over a cluster of notes and a measure with a 5/8 time signature.

49

Vla.

Pno.

This section shows two staves. The top staff (Vla.) has a bass clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It features sustained notes with slurs and some eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff (Pno.) has a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one sharp. It includes a dynamic marking '(8)' over a cluster of notes and a measure with a 5/8 time signature.

III. Borealis  
Full Score

24

54

Vla.

Pno.

**F Mournful**  
*sul pont.*  
*mp*

*15ma* 6 3 1 *15ma*

*10* *9* *p*



58 *ord.* → *sul pont.* → *ord.*

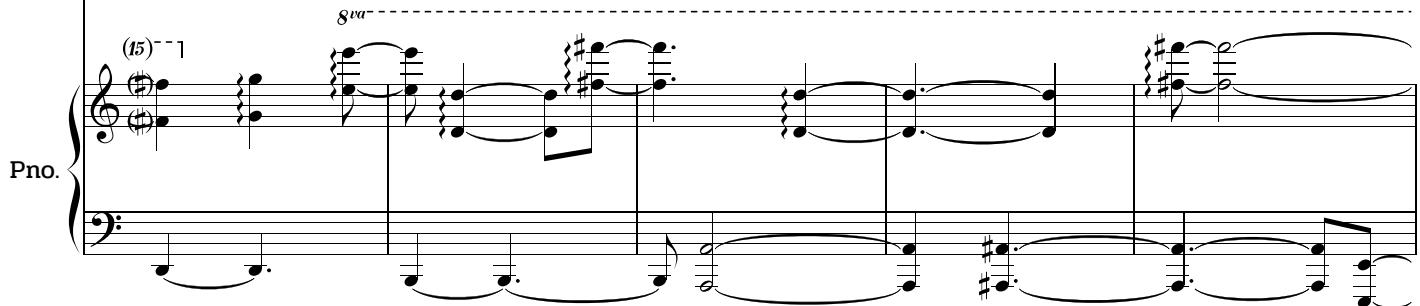
Vla.

Pno.



*(15)* 1 *8va*

Pno.



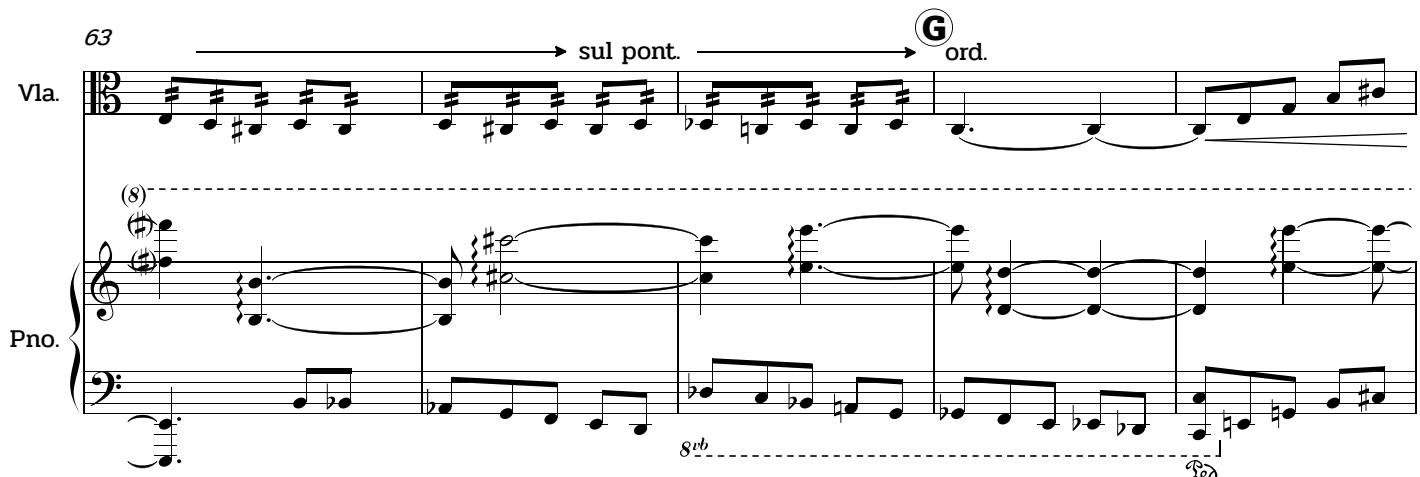
63 → *sul pont.* → **G** *ord.*

Vla.

Pno.

*(8)*

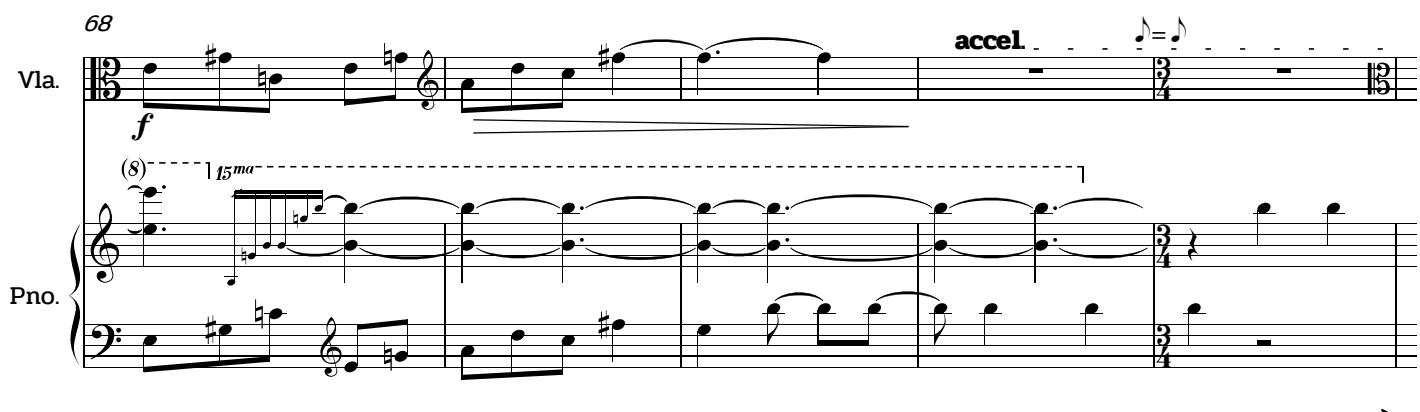
*8vb* *Rd.*



68 *f* → *accel.* → *8* → *15ma*

Vla.

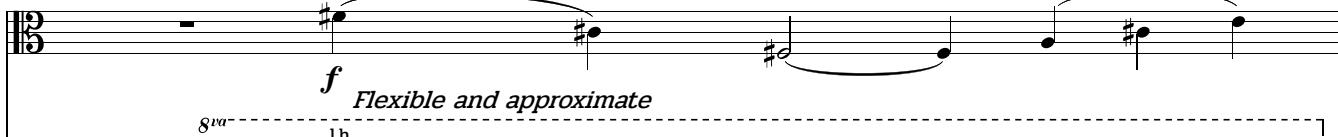
Pno.

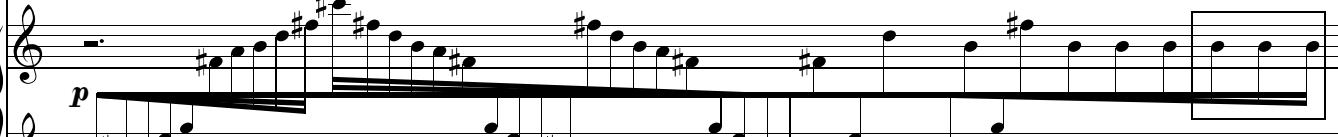


III. Borealis  
Full Score

25

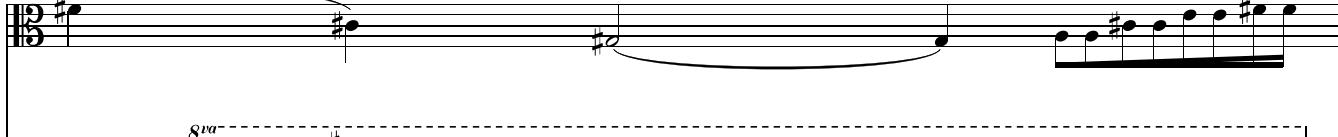
73 **H** Aqueous  $\text{♩} = 60 - 80$

Vla. 

Pno. 

*always follow viola*

74

Vla. 

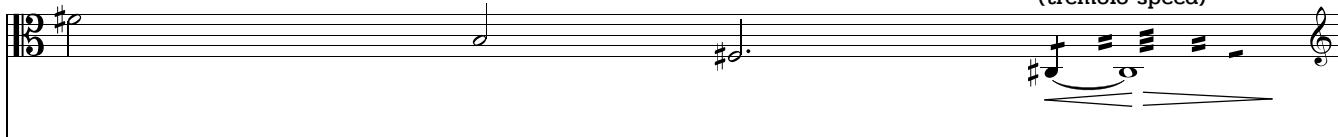
Pno. 

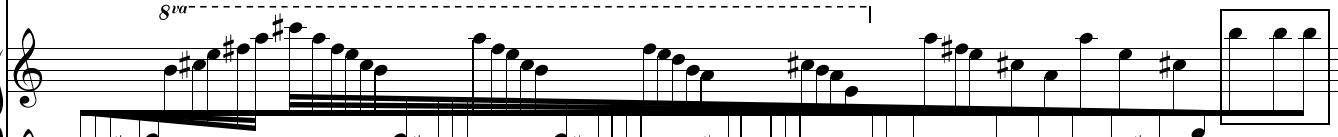
75

Vla. 

Pno. 

76

Vla. 

Pno. 

III. Borealis  
Full Score

26

I

77

Vla. *f*

Pno. *mf*

18

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which starts with a dynamic of *f*. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which starts with a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 77 consists of eighth-note patterns. Measure 18 begins with a sixteenth-note pattern in the Violin, followed by eighth-note patterns in both instruments.

78

Vla.

Pno.

6

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.). The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). Measure 78 features eighth-note patterns. Measure 6 follows, continuing the eighth-note patterns from measure 78.

79

Vla. *p* *gliss.*

Pno.

*gliss.*

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which has a dynamic of *p* and includes a glissando instruction (*gliss.*). The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which also includes a glissando instruction (*gliss.*). Both instruments play eighth-note patterns.

80

Vla. *p*

Pno. *pp*

**J Ethereal** *j = 50*  
con sord.

*molto* *ped.*

*mp*

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.), which has a dynamic of *p*. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.), which has dynamics of *pp* and *mp*. The piano part includes a dynamic of *pp* and a pedal instruction (*molto* *ped.*). The piano part also features a sustained note with a dynamic of *mp*. Measure 80 is labeled with a letter "J" and "Ethereal" with a tempo of *j = 50*, and "con sord." (with soft pedal).

III. Borealis  
Full Score

82

Vla. Pno.

27

83

Vla. Pno.

K f p

84

Vla. Pno.

85

Vla. Pno.

mf

86

Vla. Pno.

f f

III. Borealis  
Full Score

28

**L Placid  $\text{♩} = 50$**

87 Vla.  $\text{ff}$  *gliss.*  $\text{pizz.}$

Pno.  $\text{ff}$   $\text{mp}$

89 Vla.  $n$   $\text{pp}$  *senza sord.*  $p$

Pno.  $p$   $\text{pp}$

92 Vla.

Pno.

94 Vla. *rit.*  $n$

Pno.  $\text{ppp}$  *attaca*

## IV. Sunglow

29

**Warm ♩ = 60 Always Gradually Accelerating (♩ = 60 - 130) →**

*very flexible and expressive*

Viola           -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

Piano           -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

*very rhythmically steady*

*ppp*      *cresc.*      *mp*

*ped.*

Vla.      4      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

Pno.           -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

*pp*

Vla.      7      3      5      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

Pno.           -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

*p*

Vla.      9      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

Pno.           -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |      -      -      |

*mf*

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

30      **A**

Vla.      Pno.

*mp*      *cresc.*

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). Measure 30 starts with a dynamic of *mp*. Measure 31 begins with a dynamic of *cresc.*. Measures 30 and 31 each contain three measures of music, indicated by a '3' above the measure lines.

14

Vla.      Pno.

*f*

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature is A major. Measure 14 consists of three measures. Measure 15 begins with a dynamic of *f*. Measures 14 and 15 each contain three measures, indicated by a '3' above the measure lines.

16      **B** *Expansive*  $\text{♩} = 70$

Vla.      Pno.

*mf*      *cresc.*

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature is A major. Measure 16 consists of three measures. Measure 17 begins with a dynamic of *mf* and leads into a dynamic of *cresc.*. Measures 16 and 17 each contain three measures, indicated by a '3' above the measure lines.

19

Vla.      Pno.

*mp*      *mp*

This section shows two staves. The top staff is for the Violin (Vla.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature is A major. Measure 19 consists of three measures. Measure 20 begins with a dynamic of *mp*. Measures 19 and 20 each contain three measures, indicated by a '3' above the measure lines.

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

31

21

Vla.

Pno.

*f*

24 (C)

Vla.

Pno.

*mp*      *pp*

*no Pedal*

29

D Dazzling  $\text{♩} = 80$

Vla.

Pno.

*staccato*

*subf*

35

Vla.

Pno.

*p*

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

32

40

(E)

Vla. Part: Measures 40-44. Key signature: F major (one sharp). Dynamics: *mf*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*. Measure 44 ends with a fermata over the last note.

Pno. Part: Measures 40-44. Key signature: F major (one sharp). Dynamics: *p*. Measure 44 ends with a fermata over the last note.

45

Vla. Part: Measures 45-49. Key signature: F major (one sharp). Dynamics: *mp*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*, *sf*.

Pno. Part: Measures 45-49. Key signature: F major (one sharp). Measure 49 ends with a fermata over the last note.

50 (F)

Vla. Part: Measures 50-54. Key signature: F major (one sharp). Dynamics: *f*. Measure 54 ends with a fermata over the last note.

Pno. Part: Measures 50-54. Key signature: F major (one sharp). Measure 54 ends with a fermata over the last note.

55 (G)

Vla. Part: Measures 55-59. Key signature: G major (no sharps or flats). Dynamics: *f*. Measure 59 ends with a fermata over the last note.

Pno. Part: Measures 55-59. Key signature: G major (no sharps or flats). Dynamics: *mf*. Measure 59 ends with a fermata over the last note.

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

(H) Ardent  $\text{♩} = 90$

61

Vla.  $\text{sf}$   $\text{p}$   $f$

Pno.  $\text{sub p}$   $\text{mp}$

65

Vla.

Pno.  $\text{cresc.}$   $\text{mf}$

69

Vla.  $\text{sf}$   $\text{mf}$

Pno.  $f$

73

Vla.  $\text{ff}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{ff}$   $\text{f}$

Pno.  $\text{cresc.}$

This musical score page contains four systems of music for Violin (Vla.) and Piano (Pno.). The first system (measures 61-64) starts with a dynamic of *sf* for the violin, followed by *p* and *f*. The piano part includes dynamics *sub p* and *mp*. The second system (measures 65-68) shows a crescendo for the piano from *mf* to *cresc.*. The third system (measures 69-72) begins with a dynamic of *sf* for the violin, followed by *mf*, and a key change to G major indicated by a circled Roman numeral I. The piano part has a dynamic of *f*. The fourth system (measures 73-76) features a dynamic of *ff* for both instruments, followed by *mf*, *ff*, and *f*. The piano part also includes a dynamic of *cresc.* at the end of the system. Measure numbers 61 through 73 are present above the staves, and measure 33 is indicated at the top right.

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

34

**J** Burning  $\text{J} = 100$

78 Vla. ff

Pno. ff simile

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

Pno.

85 Vla. pizz. arco pizz. arco

Pno.

88 Vla. f pizz. arco

Pno. f mf

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

35

**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*

This section consists of three staves. The first staff is for the violins (Vla.), showing eighth-note patterns. The second staff is for the piano (Pno.), with bass notes and some eighth-note chords. The third staff is also for the piano, providing harmonic support. Measure 104 starts with a forte dynamic for the violins. Measures 105 and 106 continue the eighth-note patterns with different harmonic backdrops from the piano.

107

Vla.

Pno.

This section continues with the same instrumentation and style. The violins play eighth-note patterns, and the piano provides harmonic support. Measure 107 begins with a forte dynamic for the violins. Measures 108 and 109 continue the eighth-note patterns with different harmonic backdrops from the piano.

109

(O) Energetic

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

This section changes dynamics and instrumentation. The violins play sixteenth-note patterns, and the piano provides harmonic support. Measure 109 starts with a mezzo-forte dynamic for the violins. Measures 110 and 111 continue the sixteenth-note patterns with different harmonic backdrops from the piano.

112

(P)

Vla. *f*

Pno. *f*

This section continues with the same instrumentation and style. The violins play sixteenth-note patterns, and the piano provides harmonic support. Measure 112 starts with a forte dynamic for the violins. Measures 113 and 114 continue the sixteenth-note patterns with different harmonic backdrops from the piano.

IV. Sunglow  
Full Score

Q Brilliant  $\text{♩} = 126$

115 37

Vla.

Pno.

118

Vla.

Pno.

120 R

Vla.

Pno.

123

Vla.

Pno.