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A Slow Piece

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For January 2020

A Slow Piece

for String Orchestra

Geng Li

This is the piece I wrote for the beginning of 2020, the month of January.

I have no other ways but music to express my extremely complicated feelings.
And I still believe everything will be alright.

This might not be the right time to write music like this,
I understand that people need encouragement.
I know that I might write the wrong piece for what happened to our world, still, I finished the piece.

Recently, I read a book by Toru Takemitsu.
In the book, he talks about nature and music,
the connection with nature.
He says "Art is nothing but the actualization of the creative spirit..."

In awe of nature.

For Jan 2020.
Geng Li

A Slow Piece

for String Orchestra

January 2020

Geng Li

Slow, Sadly ♩ = 54
con sord.

♩ = 60-64
ord.

The score is for five string divisions: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Each division has two staves. The music is in 2/4 time and features a variety of dynamics and performance techniques.

- Violin I Div.:** Measures 1-2: *ppp* to *p*, *con sord.*; Measures 3-4: *ff*, *sul pont.*; Measure 5: *pp*, *ord.*
- Violin II Div.:** Measures 1-2: *ppp* to *p*, *con sord.*; Measures 3-4: *ppp* to *p*, *sul pont.*; Measure 5: *pp*, *ord.*
- Viola Div.:** Measures 1-2: *ppp* to *p*, *con sord.*; Measures 3-4: *ppp* to *p*, *sul pont.*; Measure 5: *pp*, *ord.*
- Violoncello Div.:** Measures 1-2: *ppp* to *p*, *con sord.*; Measures 3-4: *ppp* to *f*, *sul pont.*; Measure 5: *pp*, *ord.*
- Double Bass Div.:** Measures 1-2: *ppp* to *p*, *con sord.*; Measures 3-4: *ppp* to *ff*, *sul pont.*; Measure 5: *pp*, *sul pont.*

6

Vln. I Div.

Vln. II Div.

Vla. Div.

Vc. Div.

Db. Div.

III

IV

sul pont.

ord.

ppp

pp

mp

sfp

pp

12 $\text{♩} = 50$ $\text{♩} = 80$ Solo 5

Vln. Solo

Vln. I Div.

Vln. II Div.

Vla. Solo

Vla. Div.

Vc. Solo

Vc. Div.

Db. Div.

ord.

sul pont.

sfp

pp

mp

f

Solo

poco rall. ♩ = 80

poco rall. ♩ = 80

Vln. Solo
 Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), rest, \flat 2. (quarter note), 2. (quarter note), rest, \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *mp* < *f*. Performance direction: *port.*

Vln. I Div.
 Treble clef, 3/4 time. Rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *ppp* > *pp*.

Vln. II Div.
 Treble clef, 3/4 time. Rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *ppp* > *pp*.

Vla. Solo
 Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (quarter note), 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (quarter note), 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (quarter note), 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (quarter note), 2. (quarter note), rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *f*, *mp*, *f*. Performance direction: *port.*

Vla. Div.
 Treble clef, 3/4 time. Rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *pp* < > *pp*.

Vc. Solo
 Bass clef, 3/4 time. Notes: \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *mp*. Performance direction: *Solo*.

Vc. Div.
 Bass clef, 3/4 time. Rest, \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *pp* < > *pp*.

Db. Div.
 Bass clef, 3/4 time. Rest, \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *pp* < > *pp*. Performance directions: *sul pont.*, *ord.*

Db. Div.
 Bass clef, 3/4 time. Rest, \flat 2. (half note), 2. (quarter note), rest, 5. (half note), 5. (half note). Dynamics: *pp* < > *pp*. Performance directions: *sul pont.*, *ord.*

25 **poco rall.** . . . ♩ = 95

poco accel. . . . ♩ = 74

Solo

mp < *f*

sul pont.

Vln. Solo

Vln. I Div.

Vln. II Div.

Vla. Solo

Vla. Div.

Vc. Solo

Vc. Div.

Db. Div.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 25 through 31. It begins with a tempo marking of 'poco rall.' and a metronome marking of ♩ = 95. At measure 25, the tempo changes to 'poco accel.' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 74. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The Violin Solo part has a dynamic marking of *mp* that increases to *f* by measure 27. The Viola Solo part also has a dynamic marking of *mp* that increases to *f* by measure 27. The 'Solo' instruction is placed above the Violin Solo and Viola Solo parts in measures 27-31. The 'sul pont.' instruction is placed above the Violin I and II Divisions and Viola Div. parts in measures 27-31. The Violoncello Solo part has a dynamic marking of *mp* that increases to *f* by measure 27. The Double Bass Division part has a dynamic marking of *mp* that increases to *f* by measure 27. The Violin I and II Divisions and Viola Div. parts play a sustained chord of B-flat, D, and F in measures 27-31.

poco rall. . . . ♩ = 63

The musical score is arranged in systems for different instruments. The top system is for the Violin Solo, starting at measure 34. It features a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *f*, and a *port.* marking. The second system is for the Violin I Division, with dynamics *ppp* and *pp*, and an *ord.* marking. The third system is for the Violin II Division, also with dynamics *ppp* and *pp*, and an *ord.* marking. The fourth system is for the Viola Solo, with dynamics *mp* and *f*, and a *port.* marking. The fifth system is for the Viola Division, with dynamics *pp* and *pp*, and an *ord.* marking. The sixth system is for the Cello Solo, with dynamics *pp* and *pp*, and an *ord.* marking. The seventh system is for the Cello Division, with dynamics *pp* and *pp*, and an *ord.* marking. The eighth system is for the Double Bass Division, with dynamics *pp* and *pp*, and an *ord.* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

poco accel. . . . ♩ = 52
ord.

41

Vln. I Div.

Vln. II Div.

Vla. Div.

Vc. Div.

Db. Div.

musical score with staves for Vln. I Div., Vln. II Div., Vla. Div., Vc. Div., and Db. Div. including dynamics like ppp, p, ff, and markings such as sul pont. and ord.

49 *sul pont.* *ff* *pp* *ppp* *pp* III

Vln. I Div. *sul pont.* *ord.* *ff* *pp* *ppp* *pp* IV

Vln. II Div. *sul pont.* *ord.* *ff* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *sul pont.*

Vla. Div. *sul pont.* *ord.* *f* *pp* *pp* *pp* *sul pont.*

Vc. Div. *sul pont.* *ord.* *f* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *ord.*

Db. Div. *sul pont.* *pp* *sfp* *pp* *mp* *ord.*

ff *pp* *sfp* *pp*

$\text{♩} = 62$
ord.

♩ = 50

55

Vln. I
Div.

Musical notation for Violin I and II Divisions. The top staff (Vln. I Div.) starts with a *mp* dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The bottom staff (Vln. II Div.) also starts with a *mp* dynamic and has a similar melodic line. Both parts have a *pp* dynamic marking in the second measure and a *mp* dynamic marking in the third measure.

Vln. II
Div.

Musical notation for Violin I and II Divisions. The top staff (Vln. I Div.) starts with a *pp* dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The bottom staff (Vln. II Div.) also starts with a *pp* dynamic and has a similar melodic line. Both parts have an *ord.* marking in the second measure and a *mp* dynamic marking in the third measure.

Vla.
Div.

Musical notation for Viola Division. The top staff (Vla. Div.) starts with a *pp* dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The bottom staff (Vla. Div.) also starts with a *pp* dynamic and has a similar melodic line.

Vc.
Div.

Musical notation for Violin and Viola Divisions. The top staff (Vc. Div.) starts with a *pp* dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The bottom staff (Vc. Div.) also starts with a *pp* dynamic and has a similar melodic line. Both parts have an *ord.* marking in the second measure and a *mp* dynamic marking in the third measure.

Db.
Div.

Musical notation for Double Bass Division. The top staff (Db. Div.) starts with a *sfp* dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The bottom staff (Db. Div.) also starts with a *sfp* dynamic and has a similar melodic line. Both parts have an *ord.* marking in the second measure and a *pp* dynamic marking in the third measure.

60

Vln. Solo

Solo

mp *f*

Vln. I Div.

pp *mp* *ppp*

Vln. II Div.

pp *mp*

Vla. Div.

Vc. Div.

pp *mp*

Db. Div.

The musical score is arranged in a system with six main parts. The Vln. Solo part begins at measure 60 and features a 'Solo' instruction. It starts with a rest, followed by a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *f*, and a triplet of eighth notes. The Vln. I and II Div. parts play a similar melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *mp*. The Vla. Div. part has a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *mp*. The Vc. Div. part has a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *mp*. The Db. Div. part has a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *mp*. The score includes various dynamic markings (*pp*, *mp*, *ppp*, *f*) and performance instructions like 'Solo' and 'triplets'. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.