

ANDREW LOVETT
A LITTLE NOTEBOOK

for string quartet

2006

A little Notebook *for string quartet* (2006)

Duration: 8 minutes

Performance notes:

The piece is divided into ten short sections. These should be played as continuously as possible with only the briefest of pauses between sections and little or no rallantando or pause at the end of each part (unless specified).

NV = no vibrato, ST= sul tasto.

The musical fragment that first appears in bar 11 is from a waltz composed by Melissa Lane.

Dedicated to Melissa and to the members of the Fitzwilliam String Quartet.

andrew.lovett@ntlworld.com

A little Notebook was composed in 2006 to celebrate the 40th birthday of Melissa Lane, my partner, and to fulfil a longstanding promise and wish, to compose a piece for the Fitzwilliam String Quartet. This latter aim became more pointed in the course of 2006 - the anniversary of the birth of Dimitri Shostakovich. The Shostakovich cycle of quartets was profoundly influential when I was young and the Fitzwilliam's recording is something that I remember and still treasure.

I composed most of this piece in Los Angeles, in the home where Melissa grew up, where I happened across a waltz that she composed at a music-camp. A short fragment of that theme is used in the piece, appearing at the end of the first march.

The piece is in ten short sections, though played continuously. They are:-

March (1) - very energetic - still energetic - march (2) - waltz - delicate, hushed - absolutely still - allegro furioso - gentle, simple - march (3).

It is dedicated to Melissa Lane and to the members of the Fitzwilliam String Quartet.

A LITTLE NOTEBOOK

Andrew Lovett

1 : march (1)

♩ = 152

The musical score is written for four instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. It is in 4/4 time and consists of four measures. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score features a variety of dynamic markings: *ff* (fortissimo) at the beginning of each instrument's line, *p* (piano) in the second measure, and *sfz* (sforzando) in the final measure. The music is characterized by rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The first measure shows a strong rhythmic motif in the strings, which continues through the subsequent measures with varying dynamics and textures.

5

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f *ff* *mp* *p*

9

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

extreme ritardando ----- gentle, inward first tempo

heavier - almost stopping light delicate

f *ff* *p* *p* *ff* *pp*

2 : very energetic

Musical score for measures 13-18, featuring four staves: n. 1 (Violin I), n. 2 (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Violoncello). The music is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *sfz*, *ppp*, *pp*, and *arco*. The first staff (n. 1) starts with a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *sfz*. The second staff (n. 2) has a pizzicato section marked *f* and *sfz*, followed by an arco section marked *ppp* and *f*. The third staff (Vla.) has a pizzicato section marked *f* and an arco section marked *f*. The fourth staff (Vlc.) has a pizzicato section marked *f* and *pp*, followed by an arco section marked *f* and *pp*. The piece concludes with a 3/4 time signature change.

Musical score for measures 19-24, featuring four staves: n. 1 (Violin I), n. 2 (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Violoncello). The music is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *f*, *nv*, and *sfz*. The first staff (n. 1) is marked "light" and *p*. The second staff (n. 2) has a pizzicato section marked *f*. The third staff (Vla.) has a pizzicato section marked *f*. The fourth staff (Vlc.) has a pizzicato section marked *p* and *sfz*, followed by an arco section marked *nv* and *p*, and a final pizzicato section marked *sfz*. The piece concludes with a 3/4 time signature change.

24

Violin 1 (n. 1): *f* arco, *f* pizz

Violin 2 (n. 2): *sfz*, *p*, *f* pizz

Viola (Vla.): *sfz*, *p*, *f* pizz

Violoncello (Vlc.): *p*, *p*, *f*

29

free time

Violin 1 (n. 1): *f* arco, *pizz*, *arco*, *pizz*, *p*

Violin 2 (n. 2): *f*, *ff*, *sffz*

Viola (Vla.): *f*, *ff*, *sffz*

Violoncello (Vlc.): *f*, *ff*, *sffz*

extreme accelerando

first tempo

36
In. 1
In. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz arco
pizz arco
pizz arco

very free time - overall, mad acceleration!

42
In. 1
In. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
ff
pizz
ffz
nv
pp

4 : march (2)

62

in. 1

in. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ff *p* *sfz*

65

in. 1

in. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f *subito p* *ff* *ff* *pp* *ppp*

extreme ritardando -----

5 : waltz

70

rit...----- first tempo

mf

pizz

p

arco

pp

f

pizz

sfz

mp

sfz

pizz

mp

sfz

f

f

f

free time ----- first tempo

80

pizz

p

p

p

106

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

110

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ppp

ppp

7 : absolutely still

very slow - no vibrato and sul tasto

114

n. 1
ppp

n. 2
ppp

Vla.
ppp

Vlc.
ppp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 114 through 124. It features four staves: Violin 1 (n. 1), Violin 2 (n. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.). The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a *ppp* dynamic. The first violin part has a melodic line with a fermata over the final measure. The second violin part has a similar melodic line. The viola and cello parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and some movement. Dashed lines indicate phrasing across measures. A *ppp* dynamic is marked at the beginning of each staff.

125

n. 1
ppp nv

n. 2
ppp nv

Vla.
ppp nv

Vlc.
ppp nv

warm...

Detailed description: This system contains measures 125 through 134. It features the same four staves as the previous system. The music continues with a *ppp* dynamic and includes *nv* (no vibrato) markings. A wavy line above the first violin staff is labeled "warm...". The first violin part has a melodic line with a fermata over the final measure. The second violin part has a similar melodic line. The viola and cello parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and some movement. Dashed lines indicate phrasing across measures. A *ppp* dynamic is marked at the beginning of each staff.

8 : allegro furioso

149

ff

ff

ff

ff

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

This musical system covers measures 149 to 152. It features four staves: Violin I (n. 1), Violin II (n. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.). The time signature is 4/4. The first two measures (149-150) are marked *ff* and contain rhythmic patterns with accents. The last two measures (151-152) are also marked *ff* and feature more complex rhythmic figures with accents and slurs.

153

ff

ff

ff

ff

sffz *pp*

sffz *pp*

sffz *pp*

sffz *pp*

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

This musical system covers measures 153 to 156. It features the same four staves as the previous system. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 in measure 153 and back to 4/4 in measure 154. The first two measures (153-154) are marked *ff*. The last two measures (155-156) are marked *sffz* and *pp*, indicating a dynamic shift. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

accelerando

167

In. 1

In. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

fff

fff

fff

fff

maximum energy!

171

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

sfz p

fff

sfz p

fff

sfz p

fff

sfz p

fff

176

In. 1

In. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 176 to 179. It features four staves: In. 1 (Violin I), In. 2 (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Violoncello). In. 1 begins with a sixteenth-note tremolo in measure 176, followed by a melodic line with slurs and accents. In. 2 plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth-note chords. Vla. has a melodic line with slurs and accents, mirroring the upper strings. Vlc. provides a bass line with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and slurs.

180

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 180 to 183. It features four staves: Vln. 1 (Violin I), Vln. 2 (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Violoncello). Vln. 1 has a melodic line with slurs and accents. Vln. 2 plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth-note chords. Vla. has a melodic line with slurs and accents. Vlc. provides a bass line with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and slurs.

184

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

This system of music covers measures 184 to 188. It features four staves: n. 1 (flute), n. 2 (oboe), Vla. (viola), and Vlc. (violin). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 at measure 185. The flute part (n. 1) consists of eighth-note patterns. The oboe (n. 2) and viola (Vla.) parts feature long, sweeping melodic lines with various ornaments and slurs. The violin (Vlc.) part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth-note patterns.

189

in. 1

in. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

This system of music covers measures 189 to 194. It features four staves: in. 1 (flute), in. 2 (oboe), Vla. (viola), and Vlc. (violin). The key signature is one flat. The time signature is 4/4. The flute part (in. 1) has a melodic line with slurs and ornaments. The oboe (in. 2) part is highly rhythmic, featuring sixteenth-note patterns. The viola (Vla.) part has a melodic line with slurs. The violin (Vlc.) part continues with eighth-note accompaniment.

9 : gentle, simple

206 mute

In. 2

Vla.

p

pp

216

n. 1

n. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mute

ppp

pp

225

In. 1

In. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mute off

mute off

mute off

10 : march (3)

233

In. 1

In. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pizz.

p

arco

pp

pizz.

p

arco

pp

pizz.

p

arco

pp

pizz.

p

arco

pp

242

Score for measures 242-248. The score is for four staves: In. 1 (Violin I), In. 2 (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Violoncello). The music is in 2/4 time and features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes. The key signature has one flat. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *nv* (no vibrato). There are hairpins indicating crescendos and decrescendos.

249

Score for measures 249-252. The score is for four staves: In. 1, In. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The music is in 2/4 time and features long, sustained notes with hairpins. Dynamics include *ppp* (pianissimo) and *pp* (piano). There are also *pizz.* (pizzicato) markings. The key signature has one flat.