

Sonata

for Viola and Piano

by

Alan Belkin

My Sonata for Viola and piano was commissioned by the Jutta Puchhammer in 2006. In two movements, the work lasts about 13 minutes. Like all my instrumental music, it refers to classical forms, which however take unexpected turns. Salient moments recur, but with unexpected new continuations.

The first movement starts with a strong, rising gesture. This is mysteriously echoed in the piano, and leads to a singing, lyrical theme in the viola. A second idea, with insistent, repeated notes, follows, and then leads to another quiet, section. The mysterious character, from the opening, returns, and the work seems to be starting over. But this time the rising phrase takes a new turn. Leaving behind a long, held note, *senza vibrato*, in the viola, the piano plays quiet, harp-like arpeggios, as the viola line slowly rises. At the top of this phrase, the viola cannot resist returning to normal, expressive playing (*con vibrato*) and the piano accompanies it, with a strange, cool, wandering figure. This leads to a new, lively theme. A short transition brings back the repeated note idea, which however now grows into an insistent, emphatic coda.

The second movement has a quiet introduction. Then the same material appears in a much more vigorous character. Some contrapuntal development leads to a climax, followed by a lyrical section, derived from the introduction, which culminates in another climax. A long, mysterious middle section, in low viola and piano, eventually brings back the lyrical second theme, now more expansively. The final section begins with a quick variant of the opening material, and gradually speeds up to a broad, dramatic climax, ending the work on an affirmative note.

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Sonata for Viola and Piano

I

Molto Adagio $\text{♩} = 40$

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Adagio espressivo $\text{♩} = 55$

Musical score for Viola and Piano, Movement I, Molto Adagio section. The score consists of two staves: Viola (top) and Piano (bottom). The Viola part starts with dynamic ***ff***, followed by ***sf***. The Piano part starts with ***ff***, followed by ***pp*** and ***misterioso***. The score includes various dynamics such as ***p***, ***p***, and ***p***.

Continuation of the musical score for Viola and Piano, Movement I, Adagio espressivo section. The score continues with the Viola and Piano parts, showing more complex melodic lines and harmonic progressions.

Final section of the musical score for Viola and Piano, Movement I, Adagio espressivo section. The score concludes with the Viola and Piano parts, showing final melodic and harmonic statements.

14

rit.

Piu mosso $\text{♩} = 60$

dim.

p

f

19

p

f

p

23

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

poco rit. a tempo

28

rit. poco a poco

34

Adagio $\text{♩} = 55$

39

42

p

pp

46

poco rit.

a tempo

p

pp

p

51

rit.

a tempo

p

p cantabile

57

mf

dim.

62

pp

p

pp

67

poco rit.

Molto Adagio $\text{♩} = 40$

con sord.

senza vibrato

f

pp

ff

73 **Adagio** ♩ = 55

Musical score for piano, page 6, measures 73-78. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and has a dynamic marking of **pp**. The bottom staff is in bass clef. Measure 73 starts with a sixteenth-note pattern followed by eighth-note pairs. Measures 74-77 show eighth-note patterns with various slurs and grace notes. Measure 78 concludes the section.

con molto vibrato

Musical score for piano, page 6, measures 79-83. The score consists of two staves. The top staff has a dynamic marking of **p**. The bottom staff shows eighth-note patterns with slurs and grace notes. Measure 80 includes a dynamic marking of **pp** and the instruction *una corda, con ped.* Measures 81-83 continue the eighth-note patterns.

84

Musical score for piano, page 6, measures 84-88. The score consists of two staves. The top staff features sixteenth-note patterns. The bottom staff shows eighth-note patterns with slurs and grace notes. Measures 85-88 conclude the page.

89

cresc.

poco **f**

dim.

cresc.

mf

dim.

93

ppp

pp

pp

pizz.
senza sord.

rit.

—

—

*

97 **Allegro** $\text{♩} = 115$

p

p

p

pp

tre corde

p

102

arco

p

pp **p**

v.

107

p

mf

p subito

113

mf

mf

118

pp subito

pizz.

pp

pp subito

p

pp

rit.

123 **Piu mosso** $\text{♩} = 60$

arco

f

Allegro $\text{♩} = 115$

p

Piu mosso $\text{♩} = 60$

f

128

cresc.

cresc.

133

ff

allarg.

poco meno mosso, pesante

allarg.

fff

fff

II

attacca

Andante $\text{♩} = 70$

pp

pp

$< p$

tr

tr

tr

pp

9 Allegro non troppo $\text{♩} = 100$

13

17

20

24

28

32

36 rit.

40 Meno Mosso $\text{♩} = 90$

45

50

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

allarg. a tempo

56

f

f

f

60 *rit.* Andante $\text{♩} = 70$ *pizz.*

68

75 *arco* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

pp ————— *mf* ————— *pp* —————

mf *pp*

84

90 **Allegro** ♩ = 100

95

100

(8)

104

f

(8)

f

107

cresc.

cresc.

poco allarg.

110 *ff*

Meno Mosso $\text{♩} = 90$

115 **poco a poco allargando**

a tempo
molto vibrato

122 *p* *f* *sfp* *pp* *p* *molto* *fff*

duration: about 13 minutes