

Message Ground

canon for two violas
or solo viola and digital delay
with accompaniment

Robert Davidson (1996)

Performance Notes

Message Ground is a canon for two violas. The second player starts when first player has reached bar 3). The piece may also be performed by a soloist using either digital delay or a prerecorded second part.

A repeated figure is heard as accompaniment throughout - it may be played on piano, guitar, cello or any other instrument or recording (though octave transposition upward should be avoided).

Where possible, the accompaniment should vary dynamics, articulation and colour to suit the viola part.

Accompaniment:



Program Note

Message Ground borrows techniques popular in 17th century music, such as taking an existing passage and spinning variations upon it, repeating a bass line as a "ground" to build structures over, and exploring a range of textures in the process. Departing from a song popular in my youth, the piece explores diverse settings in a gradually shifting musical landscape, ever bound by the repeated bass line - busily going about going nowhere.

Message Ground

canon for two violas

Robert Davidson

1 Energetic ♩ = 152

2

mf < > *sim.*

fp *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

con brio

ff

Message Ground

39

41

45

p cresc. poco a poco

57

marcato e martellato

ff (use open strings generously)

63

67

71

mf

75

79

83

con brio

fp *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Message Ground

123

127

131

137

151

sul tasto

156

gradually move to sul pont. -----

161

-----> sul. pont.

167

mf

ff

second player end here

171