

... my melancholy ..., for Violin and Piano

Introduction

... *my melancholy* ... for Violin and Piano was written between April and May 2001 and received its first performance at the inaugural Finzi New Music Prize, sponsored by the Finzi Trust in June of the same year. The rules of the prize stipulate that the performers for the competition have ideally to be students studying at Reading University. The piece was performed on this occasion by students Phil Searing, (Violin) and Mel Adkins, (Piano), two final year Undergraduates.

The work contrasts percussive with more melodic musical material, the former immediately recognizable at the beginning of the movement (mm. 1-6), the latter heard in the Violin part of the opening section (mm. 7-23). The characteristic repeated figure in the Piano part heard at the beginning becomes the dominant feature of the remaining part of the first section (mm. 25-48). What follows is a highly intense lyrical melodic middle section in which a prominent melodic phrase in the Violin swiftly rises to a dramatic high point (m. 74) followed by an 'aggressive' descent. The dramatic intensity of the middle section is also fuelled by the motor semiquaver figuration prominent in the Piano texture. After a moment of calm in the Piano part (mm. 85-6), there is an immediate return to the material of the opening section, the earlier lyrical melody now treated in a more percussive way.

The short final section (mm. 106-122), functions as a kind of coda, in it we hear the melody of the opening section now much higher in register and more distant sounding, accompanied by quiet alternating figures in the Piano, and ending with short isolated chords.

...my melancholy...

for violin and piano.

1

Melvin Bird, Reading, 29/iv - 3/v/2001.

♩ = 88 Somewhat cool and detached. Well articulated throughout the movement.

pizz.

Violin

Piano

mp Rhythmic and dry.

p *f* *p* *f*

6

Vln

Pno

Intense but not too expressive, something like speaking. Never let the tone wilt.

arco.

mf

10

Vln

Pno

f

13

Vln

Pno

f

3

Musical score for Piano (Pno) and Violin (Vln), measures 17 through 27. The score includes various dynamics, articulations, and performance instructions.

Measure 17: Vln part begins with a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction. Pno part features a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic.

Measure 21: Vln part includes a *ff* dynamic and a *arco.* (arco) instruction. Pno part includes a *ff* dynamic and a *Well articulated* instruction.

Measure 24: Vln part includes a *ff* dynamic, a *arco.* instruction, and a *pizz.* instruction. Pno part includes a *ff* dynamic.

Measure 27: Vln part includes a *ff* dynamic. Pno part includes a *ff* dynamic.

Performance Instructions:

- Troubled. Suddenly faster.* (Measure 24)
- More agitated!* (Measure 21)

Tempo/Beat Markers:

- $\text{♩} = 132$ (Measure 24)

31

Vln *f*

Pno

34

Vln *ff*

Pno *f* *ff* *f*

37

Vln *fff* *f* *ff*

Pno *fff* *p*

42

Vln *ff*

Pno *mf* *f* *ff*

[illegible]

59

Vln

Pno

ff

62

Vln

Pno

ff

f

With great intensity!

3

3

65

Vln

Pno

3

67

Vln

Pno

fff

Musical score for Piano (Pno) and Violin (Vln) parts, measures 69 to 76. The score is written in 4/4 time and features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. The key signature is one flat (B-flat).

Measure 69: Pno part begins with a forte (*ff*) dynamic, playing a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 70: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 71: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 72: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 73: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 74: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 75: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

Measure 76: Pno part continues with a triplet of eighth notes. Vln part plays a series of sixteenth notes.

The score includes various musical notations such as *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), and *Aggressive!* (written vertically). The Pno part is marked with *ff* and the Vln part is marked with *f*.

C

 $\text{♩} = 88$

79

Vln

Pno

fff

mp

mp

D

pizz.

f

83

Vln

Pno

pp

f

pp

f

arco.

ff

88

Vln

Pno

ff

arco.

pizz.

pizz.

arco.

91

Vln

Pno

101

Pno

Vln

98

Pno

Vln

arco. pizz. *ff*

95

Pno

Vln

arco. *f* pizz.

E

93

Pno

Vln

103

Vln

Pno

ff

F

Strange and distant.

106 $\text{♩} = 72$

Vln

p

sul pont.

Pno

pp

pp

110

Vln

f

pizz.

Pno

ppp

ppp

Musical score for Piano (Pno) and Violin (Vln) parts, measures 116 through 119.

Measure 116:

- Piano (Pno):** Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a half note chord (F#4, C#5). Bass staff has a half note chord (F#3, C#4).
- Violin (Vln):** Treble staff. Measure 116 starts with a half note (F#4) marked *d* (dynamic). Measure 117 has a half note (C#5). Measure 118 has a half note (F#4). Measure 119 has a half note (C#5).

Measure 117:

- Piano (Pno):** Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a half note chord (F#4, C#5). Bass staff has a half note chord (F#3, C#4).
- Violin (Vln):** Treble staff. Measure 117 has a half note (C#5). Measure 118 has a half note (F#4). Measure 119 has a half note (C#5).

Measure 118:

- Piano (Pno):** Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a half note chord (F#4, C#5). Bass staff has a half note chord (F#3, C#4).
- Violin (Vln):** Treble staff. Measure 118 has a half note (F#4). Measure 119 has a half note (C#5).

Measure 119:

- Piano (Pno):** Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a half note chord (F#4, C#5). Bass staff has a half note chord (F#3, C#4).
- Violin (Vln):** Treble staff. Measure 119 has a half note (C#5). Measure 120 has a half note (F#4) marked *pizz.* (pizzicato). Measure 121 has a half note (C#5) marked *arco.* (arco). Measure 122 has a half note (F#4).

Additional markings include *f* (forte) at the beginning of measures 116 and 117, and *dddd* (four sixteenth notes) in measures 117 and 118.