

Songs of Spring

for solo violin

Leonidas Sakellarides

Program Note

Songs of Spring is an improvisatory piece in the sense that it is built around the juxtaposition of different ideas that were put down in a 'musical diary'. As the ideas progressed it became evident that the piece itself, as it was expressed by the subconscious of the composer, started to explore the idea and the application of different types of 'touches' being applied to the violin. To be more precise, the piece seemed to develop around different ways of applying pressure to the bow and the strings by using both arms. This at times resulted to a tendency and need not to produce notes but to use the notation towards the notion of a tablature, although this never occurred in the piece.

At a macroscopic level, these areas of activity, using different types of sound, produce surfaces or even 'magmas' -as I prefer to call them- of different temperatures and different textures. The consistency in the piece is achieved through the juxtaposition and development of these elements.

The piece is dedicated to my wife: Efi Gianniou as a token of gratitude and love. Her help and contribution in all aspects of our family and work has always been insurmountable.

Note for the Performer

All of the techniques that are used are explained in the score. As a general rule, when minimum left hand pressure and high bow speed with minimum bow pressure is required, aim for a sound producing overtones and do not concentrate on the note given as to what note it should produce. Some of these notes do not produce clearly articulated harmonics but sounds with noise. This should not be considered a disadvantage.

Songs of Spring

for solo violin

Leonidas Sakellarides 2015

♩ = 84

Violin

sul pont. — norm.

glis.

pp *mf* *pp* *pp*

light bow pressure,
light left hand finger pressure
and fast bow speed to produce
a sound full of harmonics

nat. harm.

pp *p* *pp* *mp*

5 5 5

8va

normal
bow pressure
and speed

sul pont.

p *mf* *p* *pp*

4

11

let bow bounce naturally
on the string (ricochet)

gl.

normal. (bounce)

norm.

mf *pp* *p* *mf* *sf*

3

14

lightly bow pressure
fast speed as before (quasi-harmonics)

glis.

norm. pressure speed
(but bouncy as before)

arco

pp *ppp* *p* *mf*

pizz.

16

sul pont.

norm. pizz.

6 5

pizz. only the first note and glis to the second

ACCEL. -----

18 *mf* *p* *mf*

(pizz.) *8va*

(accel.) -----

pp *sf > p*

8va *nat. harm.*

21 *pp* *sf > p*

$\text{♩} = 84$
arco
nat. harm.

molto press finger sul pont normally glis.

col legno battuto arco norm. pizz. off string ricochet

24 *f* *p* *mf*

$\text{♩} = 112$

arco sul pont.

27 *mf* *pp* *sf* *pp* *sf* *pp*

pizz. $\text{♩} = 72$

off string arco sul pont.

31 *sf* *p* *sf* *sf* *pp* *pp* *p*

$\text{♩} = 84$

arco sul pont. norm.

34 *off string norm.* *arco sul pont.* *norm.*

sul pont. norm.

36 *mf* *f* *sf* *sf*

38 *sul D* *sul A* *sul E*

mf *glis.* *glis.* *glis.* *glis.* *glis.* *glis.* *glis.* *glis.*

pp *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 38 to 41. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. The music features a series of glissandi (glis.) across various string positions: sul D, sul A, and sul E. The dynamics are marked as mezzo-forte (mf), pianissimo (pp), mezzo-forte (mf), and piano (p). The time signature changes to 5/16, then 2/4, then 9/16, and finally 3/4.

42

ff *p*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 42 and 43. It starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 42 features a forte-fortissimo (ff) dynamic with a glissando (glis.). Measure 43 is marked piano (p) and contains several long, sustained notes with a curved line above them, indicating a slur or a specific bowing technique.

44

f *ff* *sub. pp* *sffz*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 44 and 45. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. Measure 44 is marked forte (f). Measure 45 is marked fortissimo (ff) and includes a sixteenth-note triplet (3) and a sixteenth-note sextuplet (6). The dynamic then shifts to sub-pianissimo (sub. pp) and finally sforzando (sffz).

46

pp *sf* *p* *pp* *p*

pizz. 5 3

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 46 to 48. It starts with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. Measure 46 is marked pianissimo (pp) and includes a pizzicato (pizz.) instruction. Measure 47 is marked sforzando (sf) and piano (p), featuring a five-note quintuplet (5) and a three-note triplet (3). Measure 48 is marked pianissimo (pp) and piano (p), also featuring a three-note triplet (3).

49 $\text{♩} = 52$ *sul pont.*

p *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 49 to 51. It begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. Measure 49 is marked piano (p) and includes a glissando (glis.). Measure 50 is marked mezzo-forte (mf) and includes another glissando (glis.). Measure 51 is marked piano (p) and includes the instruction sul ponticello (sul pont.).

light pressure on both bow and left hand fingers
fast bow speed to produce quasi-harmonics

52 $\text{♩} = 96$

pp *mf*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 52 and 53. It starts with a treble clef and a 5/8 time signature. Measure 52 is marked pianissimo (pp) and includes a five-note quintuplet (5). Measure 53 is marked mezzo-forte (mf) and includes a three-note triplet (3). The staff concludes with a six-note sextuplet (6).

normal pressure and speed

54

pp *p*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 54 to 56. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. Measure 54 is marked pianissimo (pp) and includes a tremolo instruction. Measure 55 is marked piano (p). Measure 56 is marked piano (p) and includes a final chord with a fermata.

6

ACCEL. -----

58 *mf* *p*

60 *mf*

62 *pp*

gradually less pressure,
more speed, producing
harmonics

64 *p* *mp*

pizz. (play first note and glis. to the second)

strike the tip of the bow on the string

arco sul pont. high speed
low pressure
(producing harmonics)

68 *sf > p* *mf*

pizz. (play first note and glis. to the second)

arco s.p. — sul tasto

norm. harmonics

strike with the tip of the bow

71 *pp* *mp* *p*

low bow and finger pressure
high bow speed to produce harmonics

74 *pp* *p* *p*

8^{va} glis. gl. gl.

78 *p* *mf*

col legno battuto

♩ = 96

82 *f* *p*

8^{va}

85 *pp* *sf* *pp* *sf* *f*

arco norm. sul pont. norm. sul pont.

8^{va} gl. gl.

88 *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *pp* *sf*

normal pressure and speed (♯)

norm. sul pont.

glis. glis.

91 *pp* *sf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

sul pont. norm. sul A glis. gl. glis.

94 *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *sf* *sf*

glis. glis. #

norm. sul pont. snap pizz.

97 *sf*

col legno battuto

$\text{♩} = 108$

102

3 3

106 *mf* *f* *subito p* *pp*

arco cantabile espressivo

$\text{♩} = 60$

110 *mf* *sf* *p*

increase vibrato width and speed norm. vibr.

113 *mf* *p*

increase vibrato width and speed

glis.

117 *pp* *mf*

decrease bow pressure and speed increase bow speed

low bow pressure, high bow speed low left finger pressure to produce harmonics

8va

5 5

8va-----'9

119

f *p* *mf*

8va-----

121

spicato of string
norm. bow pressure and speed

123

mf 5 6 5 3 5

126

f *ff*

tap the l.h. finger
articulate only the
first note (G string)

129

♩ = 60

gl. # gl. glis.

132

glis.

8va-----

135

scratch sound
on E string
sul pont.

snap
pizz.

pp *f*

low bow pressure, high bow speed
low left finger pressure to produce harmonics

138 pizz. on nat. harmonic $\text{♩} = 96$ arco

f *p* *mp*

6 7 6

Detailed description: Musical staff 138-140. Starts with a treble clef, 2/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *f*. A diamond-shaped symbol indicates a natural harmonic. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 96. The staff changes to 3/4 time at measure 139 and 5/16 time at measure 140. The music consists of sixteenth-note patterns with fingerings 6, 7, and 6 indicated above the notes. Dynamics range from *p* to *mp*.

141 $\text{♩} = 72$ pizz.

p

Detailed description: Musical staff 141-143. Starts with a treble clef, 5/16 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *p*. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The staff changes to 3/8 time at measure 142 and 2/4 time at measure 143. The music features pizzicato chords with upward and downward bowing directions indicated by arrows.

144 let note ring up to the rest (pizz.) arco

mf *mp*

5

Detailed description: Musical staff 144-146. Starts with a treble clef, 3/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *mf*. A slur with the number 5 indicates a five-measure phrase. The staff changes to 2/4 time at measure 145 and 6/4 time at measure 146. The music includes a pizzicato phrase followed by an arco phrase with a dynamic marking of *mp*.

147

p *pp*

Detailed description: Musical staff 147-151. Starts with a treble clef, 6/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *p*. The staff changes to 3/4 time at measure 148, 4/4 time at measure 149, and 3/4 time at measure 150. The music features long, sustained notes with a dynamic marking of *pp* at the end.

152 $\text{♩} = 60$ col legno tratto pizz. col legno tratto arco

p *mf* *pp*

3

gl.

Detailed description: Musical staff 152-156. Starts with a treble clef, 2/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *p*. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The staff changes to 6/4 time at measure 153, 7/8 time at measure 154, 3/4 time at measure 155, and 5/4 time at measure 156. The music includes col legno tratto, pizzicato, and arco passages. Dynamics range from *p* to *pp*. A triplet of 3 is marked above a group of notes, and a glissando (gl.) is marked above a note.

157 pizz. on nat. harm. $\text{♩} = 60$ sul tasto

mf *fp*

Detailed description: Musical staff 157-159. Starts with a treble clef, 5/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The staff changes to 3/4 time at measure 158 and 4/4 time at measure 159. The music includes a pizzicato natural harmonic followed by a sul tasto passage with a dynamic marking of *fp*.

160 $\text{♩} = 52$ nat. harmonic

mp *p*

8^{va} nat. harm.

Detailed description: Musical staff 160-161. Starts with a treble clef, 3/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 52. The staff changes to 2/4 time at measure 161. The music features a natural harmonic followed by an 8^{va} natural harmonic with a dynamic marking of *p*.

162

mf

3 9 16

Detailed description: Musical staff 162-165. Starts with a treble clef, 2/4 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The staff changes to 3/4 time at measure 163, 9/16 time at measure 164, and 3/4 time at measure 165. The music includes a triplet of 3, a 9/16 time signature, and a dynamic marking of *mf*.

15^{ma} - - - - - ,
 very light bow pressure

164

pp *molto sul tasto*

nat. harmonic sul pont. - - - - - sul tasto 15^{ma} - - - - -

168

mf *p* *pp*

5

172 = 96 pizz. pizz. col legno battuto pizz.

p

174 col legno battuto

pp *mf*

178 = 112 arco

pp *p*

181

pp *mf* *p*

low pressure fast bow speed

norm. - - - - - sul pont.

182

mf *p*

12

norm.

183

ff pp ff

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 183 through 186. Measure 183 is in 5/4 time and features a half note with an accent (>) and a fermata. Measure 184 is in 4/4 time and contains a half note with a sharp sign (#) and a fermata. Measure 185 is in 6/4 time and contains a half note with a fermata. Measure 186 is in 4/4 time and contains a half note with a fermata. Dynamic markings are *ff* at the start of measure 183, *pp* at the start of measure 184, and *ff* at the start of measure 185. A hairpin crescendo connects the *pp* and *ff* markings.

186

pp fff

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 186 through 190. Measure 186 is in 4/4 time and features a half note with a sharp sign (#) and a fermata. Measures 187 through 190 are in 4/4 time and feature a half note with a fermata. Dynamic markings are *pp* at the start of measure 186 and *fff* at the start of measure 190. A hairpin crescendo connects the *pp* and *fff* markings.