

Edward Elgar 1857-1934

Serenade for String
Orchestra, Op 20,

arranged for 6-part
Cello Ensemble

Performance notes

According to the Elgar Society (<http://www.elgar.org>) :

"Although not formally published until 1892, the Serenade for Strings is believed to be a reworking of a suite Elgar had written some years earlier, before he had firmly set his sights on a career as a composer. Apart from the Wand of Youth suites, it is therefore probably the earliest of his compositions to survive into the standard repertoire. Certainly, it has a youthful charm while at the same time displaying indications of the skills Elgar developed as he progressed towards musical maturity. It is reportedly the first of his compositions with which he professed himself satisfied.

The opening bars of the first movement will be familiar to most, particularly to listeners to a classical music station which uses it as introductory music. It is however the central Larghetto which is generally accepted as containing the finest and most mature writing. The work remains among the most frequently performed of all his music."

The present arrangement for 6-part cello ensemble was made for conservatoire-standard cellists, and much of the material in the arrangement is at the original pitch. An attempt has been made to share out the melodic material among all the parts, although the Cello 1 part tends to be the first among equals.

However, Cellos 4,5, and 6 have been allocated one of the best melodies ever written in the second movement (from bar 51) to compensate them for a relative lack of Soli material in the other 2 movements.

One small technical point is that the F double-sharp found in the melody in the first movement at bars 48, 56 in Elgar's original score has been re-written here as a G natural, for simplicity.

The arrangement was made for the 2015 Aboyne Cello Festival, directed by James Halsey.

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Serenade for String Orchestra

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

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I

Allegro piacevole ♩. = 96

Score for Cello 1 through Cello 6, measures 1-6. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is Allegro piacevole, 96 beats per minute. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *pp*, *sf*, and *div.* (divisi).

Score for Violin 1 through Violin 6, measures 7-12. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is Allegro piacevole, 96 beats per minute. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *sf*, *pp*, and *div.* (divisi). A rehearsal mark 'A' is placed above measure 10. The Violin 6 part includes the instruction 'unis' (unison) in measure 7.

14

Vc1 pizz. *p*

Vc2 pizz. *p*

Vc3 (div ad lib) *mf* *pp* *mf*

Vc4 *mf* *Soli* *pp* *mf*

Vc5 *mf* *pp* *div.* *mf*

Vc6 *Soli* *mf* *pp* *mf*

21

Vc1 arco *sf* *p* *sf*

Vc2 arco *Soli* *sf* *p* *sf*

Vc3 *p* *sf* *p*

Vc4 *p* *mf*

Vc5 *p* *sf* *p*

Vc6 pizz. *p* *sf* *p*

27 B

Vc1 *p* *pizz.* *pp* *pizz.*

Vc2 *p* *pp*

Vc3 *p* *pp*

Vc4 *p* *div.* *pp* *unis* *p* *Soli*

Vc5 *p*

Vc6 *p*

33

Vc1 *arco* *mf* *p*

Vc2 *arco* *mf* *p*

Vc3 *Soli* *mf* *p*

Vc4 *mf* *p*

Vc5 *mf* *p*

Vc6 *Soli* *mf* *p*

40

Vc1 *mf* *f*

Vc2 *mf* *sf f*

Vc3 *mf* *f* *div.*

Vc4 *mf*

Vc5 *mf* *p*

Vc6 *mf*

46

C (#)

Vc1 *pp* *mf*

Vc2 *pp* *mf*

Vc3 *pp* *unis*

Vc4 *pp* *Soli with Vc6*

Vc5 *pp* *mf* *Soli with Vc5*

Vc6 *pp* *mf*

54

Vc1

pp

Vc2

pp

Soli with Vc4

Vc3

p

Soli with Vc3

Vc4

p

Vc5

pp

Vc6

pp

mf

mf

mf

62 **D** Soli with Vc2

Vc1 *mf* *sf* *p* *pp*

Soli with Vc1

Vc2 *mf* *sf* *p*

div. ad lib

Vc3 *mf*

Vc4 *mf*

Vc5 *mf* *sf*

Vc6 *mf* *sf* *p* *div.*

70 **Divisi, top line Solo** *espress*

Vc1 *Ripieno (sotto voce)*

Vc2 *pp* *div.*

Vc3 *pp*

Vc4 *pp* *fp*

Vc5 *Soli with Vc6* *p*

Vc6 *Soli with Vc5* *p*

77 **Solo** *espress*

Vc1 *Ripieno*

Vc2 *pp*

Vc3 *pp* *unis*

Vc4 *pp*

Vc5 *pp*

Vc6 *pp*

86

Vc1 *ff* *sf*

Vc2 *ff* *sf* *p*

Vc3 *ff* *sf* *p*

Vc4 *ff* *sf* *f* *mf* *p*

Vc5 *ff* *sf* *sf* *f* *mf* *p*

Vc6 *ff* *sf* *sf* *p*

92 **F**

Vc1 *p* *pp* *p* *sf* *p*

Vc2 *p* *pp* *p* *sf* *p*

Vc3 *Soli* *p* *pp* *p* *sf* *p*

Vc4 *p* *p* *sf* *div.*

Vc5 *p* *sf* *div.* *p* *sf* *p*

Vc6 *p* *sf* *div.* *unis* *p* *sf* *p*

99 **G**

Vc1 *pp*

Vc2 *pp*

Vc3 *div.*

Vc4 *unis* *pp*

Vc5 *p* *pp* *pp* *Soli*

Vc6 *pp*

106

Vc1: *p*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*
 Vc2: *pizz.*, *arco*, *mp*, *pp*, *div.*, *unis*, *sf*, *p*
 Vc3: *p*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*
 Vc4: *Soli*, *sf*, *Soli*, *p*
 Vc5: *p*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*
 Vc6: *p*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*

113

Vc1: *p*, *fp*, *fp*
 Vc2: *sf*, *sf*
 Vc3: *p*, *sf*, *fp*
 Vc4: *Soli*, *sf*, *pp*, *sf*
 Vc5: *Soli*, *p*, *sf*, *pp*
 Vc6: *sf*, *sf*

Soli with Vc6

120

Vc1 *mf* *f*

Vc2 *f* *sf* *sf*

Vc3 *f* *sf* *sf*

Vc4 *f*

Vc5 *f*

Vc6 *mf* *f*

Soli with Vc1

126

Vc1 *f* *p*

Vc2 *sf* *f* *p*

Vc3 *sf* *f* *p*

Vc4 *f* *p*

Vc5 *sf* *p*

Vc6 *sf* *p*

131

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

pp

ppp

pizz.

ppp

pizz.

ppp

ppp

Soli

[illegible]

9 **a tempo**

Pno. *p* *pp* *pp*

Vc2 *p* *Soli* *p* *pp*

Vc3 *p* *Soli* *fp* *pp*

Vc4 *p* *pp* *pp*

Vc5 *p* *Soli with Vc3* *fp* *pp*

Vc6 *p* *pp* *pp*

J

17 Solo (ossia)

dolce Solo

Vc1

dolce Solo

Vc2

Solo

Vc3

pp Solo

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

22

Vc1

pp

Vc2

pp Tutti

Vc3

pp Tutti

Vc4

pp Tutti

Vc5

pp Soli with Vc6

Vc6

pp Soli with Vc5

27 **Tutti** **K**

Vc1 *pp* *dim.*

Vc2 *pp* *dim.*

Vc3 *pp* *dim.* **Soli**

Vc4 *pp*

Vc5 *pp*

Vc6 *pp* *dim.*

36 **cresc. molto**

Vc1 *p* *sf* *ten.* *f* *pp* **Soli** *p* **cresc. molto**

Vc2 *p* *sf > pp* *p* *pp* *p* **cresc. molto**

Vc3 *p* *sf > pp* *pp* *p* **cresc. molto**

Vc4 *p* *sf > pp* *pp* *p* **cresc. molto**

Vc5 *p* *sf > pp* *f* *pp* *p* **cresc. molto**

Vc6 *p* *sf > pp* *p* **cresc. molto**

45 *ten.* *poco rit.* **L** *a tempo* 16

Vc1 *sf > pp* *ppp* *ppp (sotto voce)*

Vc2 *ten.* *sf > pp* *Soli* *ppp* *ppp (sotto voce)*

Vc3 *sf >* *pp* *ppp* *p* *Soli with Vc5 and Vc6*

Vc4 *sf* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *Soli with Vc4 and Vc6*

Vc5 *sf > pp* *ppp* *pp*

Vc6 *ten.* *sf > pp* *ppp* *pp* *Soli with Vc4 and Vc5*

52 *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

Vc1 *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

Vc2 *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

Vc3 *(non div.)* *cresc.*

Vc4 *cresc.*

Vc5 *cresc.*

Vc6 *cresc.*

56

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

ten

div.

rf

f

60

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

p

unis

Soli

64

M

18

con sordino

Vc1

dim. 3

div. pp dim. pizz. con sord.

Vc2

dim. 3 3 3 3 pp dim. pizz. con sord.

Vc3

dim.

con sord.

div. pp

Vc4

dim.

con sord.

pp

Vc5

dim.

con sord.

Soli with Vc6 pp

Vc6

dim.

con sord.

Soli with Vc5 pp

70

Vc1

arco p poco cresc. pp rit.

Vc2

arco (con sord.) pp co cresc. pp

Soli with Vc4 unis

Vc3

div. p pp

Soli with Vc3 p pp

Vc4

div. p unis pp

Vc5

div. p pp

Vc6

pp

III

1

Vc1

senza sord.

div

Vc2

p

senza sord.

pp

Vc3

p

senza sord.

pp

p Soli

poco marcato

Vc4

p

senza sord.

pp

pp

Vc5

p

senza sord.

pp

pp

Vc6

senza sord.

p

pp

pp

5

Soli

p

Soli with Vc1

p

Vc3

Soli with Vc2

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

9

Vc1 *p*

Vc2 *p* *dim. e dolce*

Vc3 *p*

Vc4 *p* *dim. e dolce*

Vc5 *p*

Vc6 *p*

13 **N**

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3 *fp subito* *cresc*

Vc4 *fp subito* *cresc*

Vc5 *Soli with Vc6* *pp* *Soli with Vc5* *dim.*

Vc6 *pp* *dim.*

17

Soli with V c2

Soli with V c1

V c1 *dim.*

V c2 *dim.*

V c3 *fp subito* *cresc* *mf* *fp subito*

V c4 *fp subito* *cresc* *mf* *fp subito*

V c5 *pp* *p*

V c6 *pp* *p*

21

poco rit. **O a tempo**

V c1 *mf*

V c2 *mf*

V c3 *div.* *pp* *mf* *unis*

V c4 *mf*

V c5 *pp* *mf*

V c6 *pp* *mf*

25

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

mf

f

f

f

f

ff

mf

f

29

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

p

pizz.

pp

p

pp

p

pp

p

pp

23 33

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

arco

ppp

mf

pp

pizz.

Soli

II

37 **P** Come prima

arco

arco *pp*

pp

arco

arco

pp

(arco)

pp

42 **Soli espress.** 24

Vc1 *pp* **Soli espress.**

Vc2

Vc3 *sempre pp*

Vc4 *sempre pp*

Vc5 *sempre pp*

Vc6 *sempre pp*

50 **Solo** **Tutti**

Vc1 *p subito* *pp cresc.* *f* *cresc.*

Vc2 *p subito* *div.* *cresc.*

Vc3 *p subito* *pp* *cresc.*

Vc4 *p subito* *pp* *cresc.* **unis**

Vc5 *p subito* *cresc.*

Vc6 *p subito* *cresc.*

57 Q

Vc1 *f* *p sempre dim al fine*

Vc2 *f* *p sempre dim al fine*

Vc3 *f* *p sempre dim al fine*

Vc4 *f* *p sempre dim al fine*

Vc5 *f* *p*

Vc6 *f* *p*

64

Vc1 *pp*

Vc2 *pp*

Vc3

Vc4 *Soli*

Vc5 *pp*

Vc6 *pp*

69

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

cresc.

mf

pp

Soli

mf > *p* > *pp*

div. ad lib.

mf > *p* > *pp*

div. ad lib.

mf > *p* > *pp*

mf > *p* > *pp*

mf > *p* > *pp*

mf > *p* > *pp*

mf > *p* > *pp*