

Commissioned by ISGM New Music Commissioning Fund,
and dedicated to Makoto Nakura

Arbor una nobilis

("Noblest of Trees")
FOR VIOLIN AND MARIMBA

Jacob Bancks (2009)

THEME ("Crux fidelis")

Very free tempo throughout (moderately slow)
sul pont.

The musical score is written for Violin and Marimba. The Violin part begins with a *ffp* dynamic, marked *very intense, severe*, and includes a *gliss* (glissando) and a *sul G₂* instruction. The Marimba part starts with a *sffz* dynamic, marked *intense, focused*. The first system concludes with a *pp* dynamic for the Violin, marked *very mellow, brooding*, and a *pppp* dynamic for the Marimba. The second system features a *ritard.* (ritardando) and includes *sim.* (simile) and *senza vib.* (senza vibrato) markings. Dynamics range from *mp* to *pp*. The third system is marked *a tempo [moderately slow], sempre rubato* and includes *vib. ord.* (vibrato ordered) and *molto sul tasto* (molto sul tasto) instructions. It features a *sul G₂* instruction and a *G.P.* (Grave) marking. Dynamics include *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*, with a final *n* (normal) dynamic. The score is written in treble and bass staves for both instruments, with various articulations and performance instructions.

Arbor una nobilis

2

slowly, carefully

8

mp

ritard.

pp

rumbling, sotto voce

ppp

moderate tempo

ord., senza vib.

10

mp

ritard.

p

pp

p

molto

as at first sul pont.

12

ffp

mf

morendo molto

to —————> ord.

senza vib.

mp

p

n

sffz

VARIATION 1 (Violin tacet)

Declamatory, regal, ♩ = 96-104

(Mar.)

freely

pp

ff

p

mp

p

18

sfz

sfz

f

fp

f

ffp

very boldly, intense

22

driving!

ff

tr

sfz

p

25

triumphant

sfz

f

f

ff

fff

f

mf

mf

R.H. 8va

30

R.H. *S^{va}*

calmer, more introspectively

mp *pp* *n* *mp* *p* *poco*

mp

36

p *pp* *ppp* *pp* *n*

41

Slower, simply, ♩ = 88

accel. to Tempo I°

Tempo I°

mp *p* *mp* *pp* *(pp)* *mf* *ff* *fff* *sfz* *sfz*

VARIATION 2

Freely, ♩ = 104-108, rubato

molto cantabile, with sadness

to ———> pont. *to ———> ord.*

Lively, in tempo (♩ = 104-108)

(Vln.) *p* *< f* *mp* *p* *mf*

(Mar.)

Arbor una nobilis

54 *in the background*

pp *p* *p* *mp*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *sub.* *smfz*

60

p *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

mf *p* *sub.* *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *mf*

smfz *mf* *mp*

65 *pizz.* *(still in background)* *arco*

mf *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

70 *(poco gliss.)* *(poco gliss.)*

mp *pp* *mp* *pp*

mp *mf* *f*

Arbor una nobilis

6

74

mp *p* *pp*

8va

p sub. *pp*

sfz

77

emerging to foreground

p *f*

mp *mf*

80

pizz. arco

sfz *f* *mf* *ff sub.*

ff *f* *mf* *f*

83

pizz. arco

mf sub. *ff sub.* *sfz* *ff*

mf *f*

86

sfz (*ff*) *poco* *f*

sfz *p* sub. *mp* *p*

89

ff *f*

f *mf*

92

fff *mf*

f *molto* *fff* *ff*

96

rall. molto

morendo to end

f *mf* *mp* *p*

The musical score is written for a piano and a vocal line. The piano part consists of two staves (treble and bass clef), and the vocal part is a single staff with a treble clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 86, 89, 92, and 96 indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. Dynamics include sfz, ff, f, mp, p, and p sub. (pianissimo). There are also markings for 'poco' (a little), 'molto' (very), and 'rall. molto' (very slowing down). The phrase 'morendo to end' is written above the final piano system. The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piano part has a more active, rhythmic character, while the vocal part is more melodic and sustained.

VARIATION 3

Sempre cantabile, ♩ = 48-56

dolcissimo, poco vib.

very tender, mellow, affectionate

p *poco* *pp* *p*

104 *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *n*

108 *(p)* *pp* *p* *n* *espr.* *p* *mp*

113 *ord.* *rall.* *pp* *ppp*

mp *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *ppp*

VARIATION 4

Always driving forward, ♩ = 130-138

pizz.
f
intensely quiet, focused

p *poco* *p* *poco*

122 *arco*
intensely quiet, focused

p *mp* *p* sub.
mf *f* *> mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

125 *espr., very intense*
p *mp* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*
molto *p* *pp* *(p)*

129 *p* *f* *mp* sub. *(mp)* *aggressive* *3* *3* *3* *3*
sul D (L.H. pizz.) sul G (arco)

pp *mf* *p*

Arbor una nobilis

10

132 *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* tense, angry
(arco)

f sub. *espr. mp*

mf *f* *mp* *pp*

135 pizz. arco

mp *p* *f* *mf* *mp* *molto ff*

p *mp* warmer, poco espr.

mp *p* *mp*

138 wispy, light, near tip

mp *p* *ff* *mp*

dolce *mp* *mf* *p*

mf sub.

141 *dolce* *edgier* *very severe*

mf *mp* *ff*

p *f* *p*

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VARIATION 5

Very slow, tempo ad lib. throughout, sempre rubato

with soul, anguished *f* *p* *pp* less intense *mp* *n* *pp* *mp* *espr.* *morendo*

162 *poco vib. pale, non espr.* *p* *espr.* *pp* *mp* *poco vib. pale, non espr.* *p* *morendo molto* *pp* *n* *vib. ord. espr.* *pp* *mp* *very softly, sempre sotto voce* *n* *pp*

167 *very slow, very free* *espr. molto* *p* *f* *mp* *poco espr.* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *8va* *pp* *sempre*

169 (8va) ---, long long very serene sul D. poco espr.

ppp *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp*

long long

174 long rit. molto poco espr.

p *mf* *f* *sfp* *pp* *pp*

growing anxious passionately

long

179 G.P. Very, very slow G.P. sul D

mp *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *n*

G.P.

ppp *pp* *n* *pp* *p* *n*

VARIATION 6

Luminous, ethereal, sempre rubato (♩ = ca. 48)

195

201

(non vib.) to —→ pont. to —→ ord.

pp *f* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp*

pp *ff* *fp* *(p)* *mf* *p* *mp*

n *p* *f* *mp* *p* *n*

p *n* *pp* *poco* *ppp* *p* *n*

pp *mf* *p* *n*