

**Davide Verotta**

**Ascending**  
**For Piano Quartet**  
**(2017)**

*Piece duration: 10 minutes.*

## AUTHOR'S NOTES

**Ascending** was designed as a relatively short quartet for violin, viola, cello and piano, in five movements. The piece is ten minutes long, but despite the relative shortness it attempts to deliver the structural breath offered by a longer, classically paced, multi-movement, quartet. The first movement of the piece, *Moderato*, serves as an introduction, itself interrupted by a slower section. It is followed by a *Scherzo*, characterized by a mix of aggressiveness and playfulness, a *Larghetto moderato*, a longing section in which lightness alternates with some rather dark undertones, and an *Adagio* that revisits the opening of the piece attempting to lift up from the *Larghetto* doldrums. Finally the *Presto* closes the piece with a somewhat furious take over only occasionally interrupted by short-lived hesitations.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

**Ascending** makes extensive, almost exclusive, use of two main groups of pitches: an ascending pattern (Theme pitches I. below) and a replying descending pattern (Theme pitches II. below). Rhythmically varied and variously transposed they are the backbone of the musical structure. Ordered together the pitches form a scale that is also used extensively through the piece.

Theme pitches

I. II.

Resulting scale

The image shows a musical staff with two systems. The first system, labeled 'Theme pitches', contains two themes: 'I.' and 'II.'. Theme I consists of the notes F4, A4, Bb4, and D5. Theme II consists of the notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The second system, labeled 'Resulting scale', shows the scale F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5, and F5. Red vertical lines connect the notes in the resulting scale to their source themes: F4 and G4 come from Theme I; Ab4, Bb4, and C5 come from Theme II; D5 and Eb5 come from Theme I; and F5 comes from Theme II.

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## Ascending

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**I. Moderato** ♩ = 100

**Più lento** ♩ = 82

Violin

Viola

Cello

Piano

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

**Tempo primo**

Violin I (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.) score. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Violin I part includes dynamics such as *f*, *p*, and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The Viola part includes dynamics such as *f*, *p*, and *pp*. The Violoncello part includes dynamics such as *f*, *p*, and *pizz.*. The Piano part includes dynamics such as *f*, *subito mf*, and *pp*, and features a *leggero* section. The score is marked with measures 18, 20, and 25.

Violin (Vln.)

Viola (Vla.)

Violoncello (Vc.)

Piano (Pno.)

8va

The score is for a chamber ensemble consisting of Violin, Viola, Violoncello, and Piano. The Violin part begins with a section marked 'A' starting at measure 28, featuring arco playing and dynamics of *pp* and *p*. The Viola and Violoncello parts also start at measure 28, with the Violoncello marked 'arco' and *pp*. The Piano part features a complex texture with triplets in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

**II. Scherzo**  $\text{♩} = 66$

Vln. 36 40 *violin solo* *mf* *p* *attacca*

Vla. 36 40 *p* *mf* *f*

Vc. 36 40 *mf* *f*

Pno. 36 40 *p* *mf* *f* (8va)

**B**

Vln. 3 5 10 *p*

Vla. 3 5 10 *subito p*

Vc. 3 5 10 *subito p*

Pno. 3 5 10 *subito p*

Violin (Vln.)

Viola (Vla.)

Violoncello (Vc.)

Piano (Pno.)

15 20 25

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

*mf* *mf* *8va*

Violin I (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.) score. The score is in 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score includes measures 28 through 44. The Violin I part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Viola and Violoncello parts also start with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Piano part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.



63 65 70 75 **E**

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

*8va*

*subito f* *p* *subito f*

63 65 70 75

78 80 85 90

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

*subito p* *f* *subito p* *f*

78 80 85 90

*8va*

**Più veloce**  $\text{♩} = 72$

Vln. 92 95 *attacca*

Vla. 92 95 *ff* *p*

Vc. 92 95 *ff* *p*

Pno. 92 95 *ff*

[illegible]

Violin (Vln.) part: Measures 10-15. Measures 10-12: Pizzicato (pizz.) with triplets. Measure 13: Change to 3/4 time. Measures 14-15: Arco (arco) with 'poco sul ponticello' (poco sul ponticello) instruction. Dynamics: *p* (piano).

Viola (Vla.) part: Measures 10-15. Measures 10-12: Pizzicato (pizz.) with triplets. Measure 13: Change to 3/4 time. Measures 14-15: Arco (arco) with 'poco sul ponticello' (poco sul ponticello) instruction. Dynamics: *p* (piano).

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 10-15. Measures 10-12: Pizzicato (pizz.) with triplets. Measure 13: Change to 3/4 time. Measures 14-15: Arco (arco) with 'poco sul ponticello' (poco sul ponticello) instruction. Dynamics: *p* (piano).

Violin (Vln.) part: Measures 20-24 are whole rests. Measure 25 is a whole rest. Measures 26-27 contain eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 in measure 26; D5, E5, F5, G5 in measure 27. Measure 28 contains eighth notes: G5, F5, E5, D5.

Viola (Vla.) part: Measures 20-24 contain eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4 in measure 20; D4, E4, F4, G4 in measure 21; A4, B4, C5, D5 in measure 22; E5, F5, G5, A5 in measure 23; B5, C6, D6, E6 in measure 24. Measure 25 contains a half note G4. Measures 26-27 are whole rests. Measure 28 is a whole rest.

Violoncello (Vc.) part: Measures 20-24 are whole rests. Measure 25 is a whole rest. Measures 26-27 are whole rests. Measure 28 contains eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4 in measure 28.

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 20-24 contain eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4 in measure 20; D4, E4, F4, G4 in measure 21; A4, B4, C5, D5 in measure 22; E5, F5, G5, A5 in measure 23; B5, C6, D6, E6 in measure 24. Measure 25 contains a half note G4. Measures 26-27 contain eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 in measure 26; D5, E5, F5, G5 in measure 27. Measure 28 contains eighth notes: G5, F5, E5, D5.



Violin I (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.) score. The score is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Violin I part features a melodic line with a fermata at measure 45, marked *pp* and *poco sul ponticello*. The Viola and Violoncello parts provide harmonic support, with the Violoncello playing a sustained bass line. The Piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a fermata at measure 45, marked *subito pp*. The score includes dynamic markings (*pp*, *ppp*, *p*) and articulation marks (*poco sul ponticello*, *subito*). The score is divided into measures 44, 45, and 50.



Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

17

20 pizz.

arco

mf

25

V. Presto  $\text{♩} + \text{♩} = 82$  ( $\text{♩} = \text{c.} 136$ )

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

28

30

attacca

ff

5

This musical score is for the piece 'J' by John Adams. It features four staves: Violin I (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is written in 4/8 time and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The piece is marked with a 'J' in a box at the top. The Violin I and Viola parts have a 'p' (piano) marking at measure 15. The Violoncello part has a 'p' marking at measure 15. The Piano part has a 'sempre ff' (sempre fortissimo) marking at measure 15. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 18.

Violin I (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.) parts. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Violoncello part includes dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte), and a crescendo. The Piano part includes a *sempre p* (piano) marking. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 18, 20, 21, and 12 indicated.

23

Vln.

*p* *mf*

**K**

25

Vla.

*p* *mf*

Vc.

*ppp*

8<sup>va</sup>

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, measures 23 to 25. It features four staves: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). Measures 23 and 24 are in 12/8 time, while measure 25 is in 15/8 time. The Violin and Viola parts have dynamics *p* and *mf*. The Violoncello part has *ppp*. The Piano part has an *8va* marking. A section marker **K** is placed above measure 25. The Violin and Viola parts have slurs and accents. The Piano part has a dashed line for the *8va* marking.

29

Vln.

30

35

*ppp*

40

pizz.

*p*

**L**

35

Vla.

*ppp*

40

*p*

Vc.

*mf*

40

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score, measures 29 to 40. It features the same four staves as the first system. Measures 29 and 30 are in 12/8 time, measures 31-34 are in 4/8 time, and measures 35-40 are in 3/4 time. The Violin and Viola parts have dynamics *ppp*. The Violoncello part has *mf*. The Piano part has *p*. A section marker **L** is placed above measure 35. The Violin and Viola parts have slurs and accents. The Violoncello part has a slur. The Piano part has a slur and accents.

Marco poco sul ponticello

43 45 50 55

Vln.

43 45 50 55

Vla.

43 45 50 55

Vc.

43 45 50 55

Pno.

pp

pp

N

56 60 65

Vln.

56 60 65

Vla.

56 60 65

Vc.

56 60 65

Pno.

mf

p

subito p

66 ord. 70

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

74 75 80

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

**O**

*ff* *pp*

RH LH

84 85 90 95

Vln. *pp* *subito f* **P**

Vla. *subito f*

Vc. pizz. *p* *f* arco

Pno. *f*

99 100 105 110

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Piu Presto  $\text{♩.} + \text{♩} = 90$

111

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

*ff*

115

120

12

122

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

*p*

*pp*

*f*

*subito f*

125

12

Q

[illegible][illegible]