

# gegenschein

for solo violin

Commissioned by Piotr Szewczyk for Violin Futura

Clifton Callender

2009

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*gegenschein*, for solo violin, 2009

Commissioned by Piotr Szewczyk for *Violin Futura III*

Duration ~ 4'

Program notes—



The gegenschein, or counter shine, is a very faint brightening of the night sky centered on the point directly opposite the sun. It is a very indirect source of light—sunlight reflecting off of the very fine particles that make up interplanetary dust. This is an appropriate metaphor for the kind of sound world I have tried to create using a solo violin, a work consisting mostly of very fast arpeggiated and tremolo-like figures involving natural

harmonics. Due to the speed of these figures, the harmonics only have time to partially sound, yielding a rapid succession of very faint overtones. The result is a fragile yet brilliant flickering of sound, mostly quiet and diffuse yet played with great intensity and aggression. My thanks to Piotr Szewczyk who commissioned and premiered the work as part of his *Violin Futura* project.

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*appassionato ma fragile e luminoso*

\*  $\text{♩} = 96$  *accel.*  $\text{♩} = 96$  *accel.*  
 5  $\text{♩} = 96$  *accel.* *presto poss.* *molto rit.*  $\text{♩} = 96$  *accel.*  $\text{♩} = 96$   
*f* *ppp* *p*  
 11 *accel.*  
 16 *presto poss.* *molto rit.*  $\text{♩} = 72$  *accel.*  $\text{♩} = 96$  *poco accel.*  
*f* *pp* *p* *poco* *sub.* *p* *mp*  
 21  $\text{♩} = 120$  *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *accel.* *s.p.* *ord.*  
*mf* *poco* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *p*  
 25 *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *presto poss.* *molto rit.*  
*f* *possibile*  
 32  $\text{♩} = 72$  *accel.*  $\text{♩} = 120$  *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 72$  *accel.*  $\text{♩} = 120$  *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 96$  *molto rit.*  
*p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

\* Dashed slurs indicate legato bowing; *ad lib.* change of bows.

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2  $\text{♩} = 96$  *molto accel.* *presto poss.*  $\text{♩} = 144$  *ord.* *s. p.* *ord.* *s. p.*

37 *f* *mf* *poco* *mf* *f*

II  $\text{♩} = 96$  *molto accel.* *presto poss.* *rit.*

41 *mf* *f* *sub. pp* *f* *possibile*

0 0

46  $\text{♩} = 96$  *p*

52 *p* *mp* *p* *simile* *mp* *p* *mf*

55 *mp* *f*

56 *mf* *ff*

57 *f* *ff*

III II

60

*fff* *f*  
*possibile*

♩ = 96 *molto accel.* *presto poss.* *rit.* ♩ = 60 *pochiss. accel.* *pochiss. rit.*

ord. → s. p. → ord.

61

*sub. pp* *f* *p*  
*possibile* *poco*

*poco accel.* *poco rit.* *accel.* *rit.* *più accel.* *più rit.* ♩ = 60 *m o l t o*

69

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

*a c c e l e r a n d o* *presto poss.* ♩ = 132

73

*ff* *simile*

*rit.* *molto rit. al* ♩ = 144 ♩ = 144

77

*f* *sub. mf*  
*possibile*

*molto accel.* *presto poss.*

80

*f*  
*possibile*

$\bullet = 112$

82

*subito p*

85

*subito p*

88

*subito p*

92

*subito p*

93

*pp p pp*

96

*p poco*

97

*p*

98

*ppp p ppp pp*