

String Quartet No. 8

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Largo (♩ = 63)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

p

p

p

p

Measures 1-7 of the String Quartet No. 8. The score is in B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). The tempo is Largo, with a quarter note equal to 63 beats. The instrumentation includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The first four measures are mostly rests for the upper strings, with the Cello playing a low, sustained note. In measures 5-7, the Violins and Viola enter with a melodic line, starting on a half note G4 and moving stepwise. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *p* (piano).

Measures 8-15 of the String Quartet No. 8. The music continues with the melodic line from the previous system. Dynamics include *dim* (diminuendo), *sf pp* (sforzando piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *poco espress.* (poco espressivo). The Viola and Cello parts show more active movement, with the Viola playing a series of eighth notes and the Cello providing a harmonic foundation. The Violins continue their melodic phrase with some grace notes and slurs.

Measures 16-23 of the String Quartet No. 8. The music continues with the melodic line from the previous system. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp sempre* (pianissimo sempre), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Viola and Cello parts show more active movement, with the Viola playing a series of eighth notes and the Cello providing a harmonic foundation. The Violins continue their melodic phrase with some grace notes and slurs.

2
23

mf espress. *f dim.* *pp*

mf espress. *f dim.* *pp*

mf espress. *f dim.* *pp*

mf espress. *f dim.* *pp*

32

f

40

f

48 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

p *pp* *pp* *poco espress.* *pp*

56

pp

64

pp *pp* *pp sempre* *pp sempre*

72

cresc. ed espress. *cres. ed espress.* *cres. ed espress.* *cres. ed espress.*

89

96

103

111

dim.

mp

dim.

p dim. - -

118

pp

mf dim.

p

pp

pp cresc.

pp

mf dim.

p

pp cresc.

pp

pp cresc.

pp

mf dim. -

p

pp cresc.