

Hongwei Cai

String Quartet No.1

...to the shore...

2018

Program Note


Partly inspired by Michael Jackson's song *Heal the World*, my *String Quartet No.1 "to the shore"* is an imaginary journey searching for a "place" where there is no damage or hurt, sorrow or fear. The music begins moaning-like and is slow-paced, constantly changing timbre with a dark expression. After a sudden flash — a metaphor for the dawn of hope—, the music shifts, sending a signal to God asking a way to travel from shore to shore. After a difficult trek, the "place" appears unexpectedly. It is quiet and peaceful, like a beautiful meadow, birds singing and with flowers fragrant. Everything is created in beauty and exists in harmonious coexistence.


The piece received its first performance with the JACK Quartet on Mar.13, 2019, at the Concert Hall in the University of Iowa School of Music.


Duration: ca. 11 min

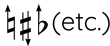
Performance Instructions

(m)SP = (molto) sul ponticello
(m)ST = (molto) sul tasto
ord. = ordinary bow position
o.b. = on bridge
bow-vib. = bow vibrato

- 


Change gradually from one sound or one way of playing (etc.) to another.
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Double trill. Alternate main pitch with indicated secondary pitches played in a random order.
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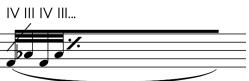
Circular bowing
- 

Non-tempered secondary accidentals, slightly modifying indicated pitch in direction of appended arrow.

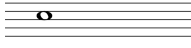
bariolage in interval



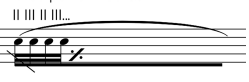
to be performed as:



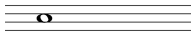
bariolage in unison



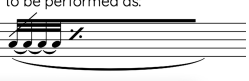
to be performed as:



bow vibrato



to be performed as:



String Quartet No.1

...to the shore...

Moaning $\text{♩} = 48$

Hongwei Cai

The musical score is written for four string instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into three systems, with measures 6, 11, and 16 marked at the beginning of each system.

Violin 1: Starts with a trill (tr) and a tenuto (ten.) mark. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ppp*. Includes a *gliss.* (glissando) and a *smorz.* (smorzando) instruction.

Violin 2: Starts with a trill (tr) and a tenuto (ten.) mark. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ppp*. Includes a *gliss.* (glissando) and a *smorz.* (smorzando) instruction.

Viola: Starts with a trill (tr) and a tenuto (ten.) mark. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ppp*. Includes a *gliss.* (glissando) and a *smorz.* (smorzando) instruction.

Violoncello: Starts with a trill (tr) and a tenuto (ten.) mark. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ppp*. Includes a *gliss.* (glissando) and a *smorz.* (smorzando) instruction.

Performance Instructions: The score includes various performance instructions such as *con sord.* (con sordina), *al pont.* (al ponticello), *SP* (sul ponticello), *ord.* (ordinario), *stessso* (stesso), *ten.* (tenuto), *smorz.* (smorzando), *bow-vib.* (bow vibration), *arco o.b.* (arco obbligato), *non vib.* (non vibrato), *poco vib.* (poco vibrato), *gliss. between intervals*, *mSP* (messa di voce), *double trill*, *bariolage*, *tr.* (trill), and *ord.* (ordinario).

21

(bariolage in unison) SP

ord.

SP *tr*

gliss.

p

mp

ppp un poco cresc.

(bariolage in unison)

senza sord. SP III

arco/pizz.

p

ppp

pp

mp

(bariolage in unison)

SP

ord.

arco/pizz.

p

mp

SP *mSP*

pizz. SP

f

mp

mp

mp

Flashing

25

(tr) 3+2

stesso

3

espress. f

3+2

tr

stesso

3

espress. f

3+2

mSP

tr

stesso

3

$sfzp$ f

senza sord.

gliss.

mp

ord. (II)

pp

$PPP-P$ unsynchronized

ord. circular bowing, slowly

pp

$PPP-P$ unsynchronized

ord.

pp

arco ord.

34 3+2+2 senza sord.

3+2+2 3+2+2 3+2+2 3+2+2

pp *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

37 *p cresc. poco a poco* *f*

p cresc. poco a poco *f*

pizz. (gliss.) *sonore p cresc. poco a poco* *f*

40 (gliss.) *mf* *p* *f*

(gliss.) *mf* *p* *f*

[illegible]

Resonating

45 3+2+2

ff *pp* *ff*

3+2+2

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

3+2+2

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

3+2+2 arco SP

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in a four-staff format. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a half note rest, followed by a forte (*ff*) dynamic section with a continuous eighth-note melody. The second staff (treble clef) starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a half note rest, then transitions to a piano (*pp*) dynamic section with a continuous eighth-note melody. The third staff (bass clef) begins with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a half note rest, followed by a piano (*pp*) dynamic section with a continuous eighth-note melody. The fourth staff (treble clef) starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a half note rest, then transitions to a piano (*pp*) dynamic section with a continuous eighth-note melody. The score is divided into two systems, each ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the time signature is 9/8.

[illegible]

54

gliss.

pp

ff

gliss.

pp

ff

gliss.

pp

ff

gliss.

pp

56

pp

gliss.

gliss.

57

58

59

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

57

57

sfp *mp*

15^{ma} free bowing

mp *f* *p*

15^{ma} free bowing

sfp *pp*

15^{ma} *mp* *f* *p* *mf*

8^{va} *sfp* *mp*

free bowing

5 *p* *f* *p* *5*

59

pp

gliss. gliss.

8^{va} *mp* *f*

mf *p*

(15) *6* *p* *3* *6* *mf* *6* *p* *f* *pizz.*

(8) *5* *mf* *5* *p*

61

sfp *mSP* *scratch tone* *ord. pizz.* *ff*

sfp *mSP* *scratch tone* *ord. pizz.* *ff*

sfp *arco* *mSP* *scratch tone* *ord. pizz.* *ff*

sfp *mSP* *scratch tone* *ord.*

sfp *ff* *n.*

Molto pesante

64

poco a poco alto sul tasto with high bow pressure so that the subtone can be heard

subtone

mf

71

ord.

ff *pp*

al pont.

ord.

ff *pp*

ord.

ff *pp*

ord.

ff *pp*

sffp

73

ord.

ff *pp*

al pont.

ord.

ff *pp*

ord.

ff *pp*

ord.

ff *pp*

sffp

3/4 4/4

[illegible]

78

non vib.
ST

p sempre

ord.

ff

pp

al pont.

ord.

ff

pp

al pont.

ord.

ff

pp

al pont.

ord.

sffp

86

ord.

pp

ff

pp

al pont.

ff

pp

con sord.

non vib.
ST

mf sempre

con sord.

non vib.
ST

mf sempre

scratch tone

fff sempre forceful

> ffp

pp

* play each note a little lower to acquire a cyclic neutral seventh parallel motion with violin 2

90

$\text{♩} = 40$

mf

mp

mf

mp

96

mf

mf

mf

pp

mf

mf

mf

pp

mf

Like in Elysium

15^{ma} mSP (free bowing) sempre repeat

101

pp

f

pp

f

ord.

SP bariolage senza vibrato sempre

ppp-p flaut.

SP bariolage pp

mSP tr f

pp

mf

p

(15) ord. gliss. bariolage

106

sf 6 3 p

ppp-p flaut.

mSP (free bowing) 15^{ma} sempre repeat

pp

(tr) p

SP bariolage pp

mSP tr f

pp

mf

p

(15) ord. bariolage

110

ppp-p flaut.

SP bariolage (tr) p

pp

mSP 15^{ma} ppp-p

mSP tr f

p

SP bariolage pp

pp

mf

p

pp

116 **bow-vib.**

mSP
15^{ma}

ppp

(15)

ord.
bow-vib.

mSP
15^{ma}

ppp

mSP
tr

f

p

SP
bariolage

pp

f > p

pp

f > p

Peacefully

122 (15)

non vib.

mp espres.

rap the tension-screw
between strings II and III

gliss.
gliss.

pp

non vib.
ST

p espres.

pp

126

pp

con sord.

non vib.
ST

p

pp

lunga

smorz.

lunga

smorz.

lunga

smorz.

lunga

smorz.