

BRAINSTAVES

for string quartet and EEG

Cliff Kerr | May 2019

A As if you are a brain in a vat (sonoro, $\text{♩} = 104$)

Bring out the melody as you build up the chord

pppp

pp

mf

mf

Bring out the melody as you build up the chord

As if rising and falling on an ocean swell

ff

ppp

ff

ff

ppp

ff

ff

ppp

ff

B Evolving from sweet to insane (poco a poco crescendo e agitato, ♩ = ♩, ♩ = 104)

19

VI *p*

VII *pp pizz.*

Va *pp pizz.*

Vc *pp pizz.*

26 VI: sweet and lyrical, like a fine stream of honey, but gradually getting louder too

VI *mp*

VII *p* *mp*

Va *p* *mp*

Vc *p* *mp*

30

VI *mf*

VII *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

33

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

36

VI *ff*

VII *ff*

Va *ff*

Vc *ff*

39

♩ = 104

VI *pizz.*

VII

Va

Vc

pp let ring

pp let ring

pp let ring

pp let ring

C

Strong, fat, angry, but gradually relaxing (poco a poco diminuendo e sul pont.)

Violin I (VI): Measures 42-49. Starts with a whole rest, then a half note G4 (marked *pp* arco), followed by a half rest. In measure 43, it begins a descending eighth-note scale from F#5 to D5, marked *ff*. The scale continues through measures 44-49.

Violin II (VII): Measures 42-49. Starts with a whole rest, then a half note G4 (marked *pp* arco), followed by a half rest. In measure 43, it begins a descending eighth-note scale from F#5 to D5, marked *ff*. The scale continues through measures 44-49.

Viola (Va): Measures 42-49. Starts with a whole rest, then a half note G4 (marked *pp* arco), followed by a half rest. In measure 43, it begins a descending eighth-note scale from F#5 to D5, marked *ff*. The scale continues through measures 44-49.

Violoncello (Vc): Measures 42-49. Starts with a whole rest, then a half note G4 (marked *pp* arco), followed by a half rest. In measure 43, it begins a descending eighth-note scale from F#5 to D5, marked *ff*. The scale continues through measures 44-49.

Measures 44-49 show the continuation of the descending eighth-note scale for all four instruments, with dynamics ranging from *pp* to *ff* and *f*.

50

VI *mf* *mp*

VII *mf* *mp*

Va *mf* *mp*

Vc *mf* *mp*

Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each (separate) note

52

VI *p*

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p*

p Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each (separate) note

55

VI *pp* Big glissandi

VII *pp*

Va *pp* Big glissandi

Vc *pp* Big glissandi

Short notes should be barely audible under VII

Make eye contact with each other throughout; play furtively (razor-sharp onset and offset, sul pont.)

61

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

D

Drunk; sempre glissando; lean into the glissandi (and lean for real, as if drunk); poco a poco crescendo

63

VI *ppp* *simile*

VII *ppp* *simile*

Va *ppp* *simile*

Vc *ppp* *simile*

70

VI *pp* *p*

VII *pp* *p*

Va *pp* *p*

Vc *pp* *p*

75

VI *mp* *mf*

VII *mp* *mf*

Va *mp* *mf*

Vc *p* *mp* *mf*

79

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

E Like an echo in a busy train station, but the train is coming (sternly; poco a poco crescendo)

84

VI
VII
Va
Vc

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Legatissimo

94

VI
VII
Va
Vc

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

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

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

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

Legatissimo

Lift off the bow
in a theatrically
exaggerated gesture

Bow the air for a bit and gradually
lower the bow onto the string until
there is a crazy arpeggiato

98

VI
VII
Va
Vc

mf *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff*

mf *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff*

mf *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff*

mf *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp* *fff*

Lift off the bow
in a theatrically
exaggerated gesture

Bow the air for a bit and gradually
lower the bow onto the string until
there is a crazy arpeggiato

F Focused, lyrical; light, whimsical background accompaniment; impassioned solos

106

VI *pp*

VII *pp*

Va *pp*

Vc *mf*

Measures 106-107: VI and VII play rapid sixteenth-note patterns. Va plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Vc has a melodic line with a half-note rest in measure 106 and a half-note in measure 107.

108

VI

VII

Va

Vc

Measures 108-110: VI and VII continue with rapid sixteenth-note patterns. Va continues with eighth-note accompaniment. Vc has a melodic line with a half-note rest in measure 108 and a half-note in measure 109.

111

VI *mf*

VII

Va

Vc

Measures 111-113: VI has a melodic line with a half-note rest in measure 111 and a half-note in measure 112. VII continues with rapid sixteenth-note patterns. Va continues with eighth-note accompaniment. Vc has a melodic line with a half-note rest in measure 111 and a half-note in measure 112.

114

VI

VII

Va

Vc

Measures 114-116: VI has a melodic line with a half-note rest in measure 114 and a half-note in measure 115. VII continues with rapid sixteenth-note patterns. Va continues with eighth-note accompaniment. Vc has a melodic line with a half-note rest in measure 114 and a half-note in measure 115.

117

VI

VII

mf

Va

Vc

mf

120

VI

VII

Va

Vc

122

VI

VII

Va

Vc

p dolce e lirico

G Still lyrical, but with the wide-eyed wonder of having just discovered the top of your head

125

VI *mp*

VII

Va *p*

Vc

f pizz., gliss., articulate each note

129

VI

VII

Va

Vc

133

VI

VII

Va

Vc

136

VI *f* pizz., gliss.

VII

Va *f* pizz., gliss.

Vc

139

VI

VII

Va

Vc

142

VI

VII

Va

Vc

146

Stare at each other

f pizz.,
gliss.

ff sempre pizz.,
let ring

p

ff sempre pizz.,
let ring

p

ff sempre pizz.,
let ring

p

ff sempre pizz.,
let ring

Stare at each other

H ♩ = 104 Evolving from insane to sweet (poco a poco diminuendo)

150

VI *pp* pizz.

VII *pp* pizz.

Va *pp* pizz.

Vc *pp* pizz.

152

VI *ff* arco

VII *ff*

Va *ff*

Vc *ff*

155

VI *mf*

VII *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

158

VI *mp*

VII *mp*

Va *mp*

Vc *mp*

161

VI *p* Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each pizz.

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p* Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each pizz.

164

VI *pp* *f*

VII *pp* Big glissandi

Va *pp* Big glissandi

Vc *pp* Big glissandi

168

VI *mp* pizz. Smile broadly :D

VII *ff* arco *ppp*

Va *ff* arco *ppp*

Vc *ff* arco *ppp*