



# ***String Trio (2012)***

*For violin, viola and violoncello*

***Part for viola***

*Nigel Morgan*

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*Tonality Systems Press*

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### **About the music**

In my work for solo piano *The White Light of Wonder* I developed a way of creating sequences of 4-part chords through algorithmic means. The resultant harmony was often surprising and unusual, chords being separate and independent objects rather than formed from a distinct tonality into any kind of hierarchy. Much when writing *To the Dark Unseen* for a string ensemble of 10 players later I experimented with a method of organising when and where chords could sound using a beat / space technique in which the composition of the chords on every beat changed. In this short String Trio I have brought the two devices together.

There are three distinct sections in this Trio played without a break. Both the first and the third have extensive links of ornamentation between chords. The second is a pulsating movement of iterations of chords. The harmonic sequence is identical in one and two, but in three the harmony is generated entirely from the starting chord of movements 1 and 2 to produce just eight chords that are then arranged in a series found in Franco Donatoni's String *Quartet The Heart's Eye* – 1 2 8 1 2 3 7 8 1 2 3 6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 then subjected to a palindrome.

This String Trio is the first of a series of trio compositions to include Wind, Brass and Percussion ensembles. The music is dedicated to the violist and composer Simon Rowland-Jones.



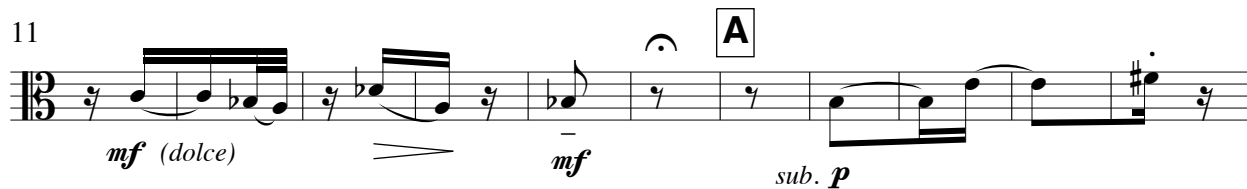
# String Trio

*agilmente* ♩ = 60

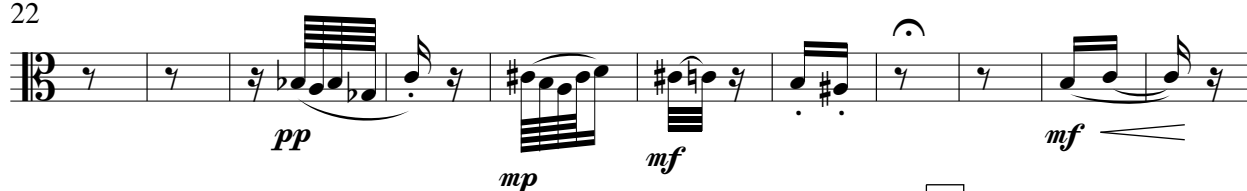
Va.



11



22



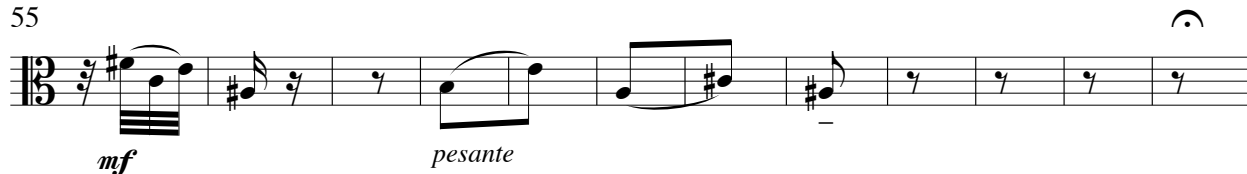
33



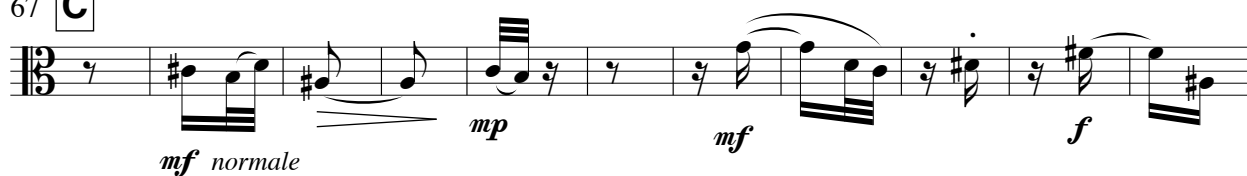
44



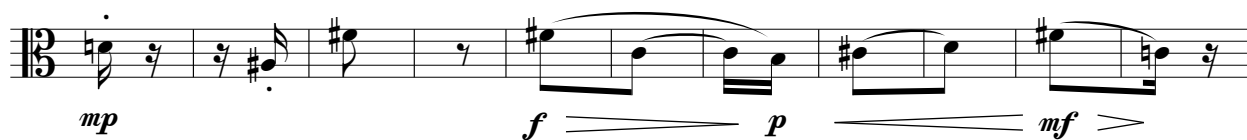
55



67 C



78



89



100



*animato* ♩ = 180

108 *V*

*Va* *mf*

113 *E*

119 *p*

125 *F* *mp* *f* *mp*

132

137 *G* *sub. p*

143 *mf*

149 *H*

155

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a Violoncello (Va) part in 12/8 time. It begins at measure 108 with a *mf* dynamic and an *animato* tempo of 180 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes several measures with slurs and accents. Chord symbols E, F, G, and H are placed above specific measures. Dynamics vary throughout, including *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *sub. p* (subito piano). The piece concludes at measure 155.

160 I

*f*

166

*f*

172 J

*f*

178 K

*sub. p* *mf* *>*

184

*f*

190 L

*mf*

195

*mf*

201 M

*mp* *mf*

208

*mf*

*attacca*

215 *sostenuto e dolce* ♩ = 90

Va

*p* *tasto*

220 **N** , **O**

*mp* (normale) *p* *tasto*

228 , **P**

*pp* *mf* (normale)

236 , **Q**

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

244 , **R**

*p* *mp*

251 , **S**

*f* *mp* *tasto* *mf* *mp*

258 , **T** , **U**

*pp* *ppp* (pont.) *p* *tasto*

266 *poco rit.*

*senza vibr.*