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Life (Still) Goes On

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Life (Still) Goes On

for violin and piano

Commissioned by Julie Rosenfeld

Stefan Freund

(2016)

Stefan Freund (b. 1974)
***Life (Still) Goes On* (2016)**
for violin and piano
Commissioned by Julie Rosenfeld
Duration ca. 12 minutes

Program Notes

When Julie Rosenfeld asked me to write a piece for violin and piano, I began thinking of my dad's piece, *Life Goes On*, for the same instrumentation. The title often comes to mind during the ups and downs of our personal lives, but it can also be applied to a larger level. Throughout our planet's violent history, including mass extinctions, somehow life goes on.

I'm not exactly sure what my dad was thinking when he chose that title for his piece, but the bittersweet tune that opens his work goes through my mind when I face a difficult time or I sympathetically experience someone else's, or something else's, tribulations.

The expression "life goes on" seems optimistic, but has a darker side to it. We would not be thinking about the persistence of life, or our own personal well-being, unless it had been undermined. For me, this idea captures the sentiment of middle age. Writing at a similar age as my dad when he wrote his piece, there is much to be thankful for, but also a stark realization of the challenges to come.

My piece, *Life (Still) Goes On*, attempts to capture this duplicity. Similarly to the original *Life Goes On*, a bittersweet melody is introduced at the opening. A contrasting schizophrenic scherzando follows, representing life's quick ebb and flow of experiences. At times it settles into a rock groove, which quotes a popular tune about the difficulties people face in their occupations, no matter how glamorized they may be. Eventually the scherzando figure gets locked into repetition, creating an ostinato that leads to a blazing finish. The piece is over, but life (still) goes on. So much for *ars longa, vita brevis!*

Composer's Bio

Stefan Freund received a BM from Indiana University and an MM and a DMA from the Eastman School of Music. He is presently Associate Professor of Composition at the University of Missouri. Previously he was Assistant Professor of Composition at the Eastman School of Music.

Freund is the recipient of prizes from BMI, ASCAP, MTNA, MU, and the National Society of Arts and Letters. He has received commissions from the Carnegie Hall Corporation, the Lincoln Center Festival, the Phoenix Symphony, the New York Youth Symphony, Town Hall Seattle, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Sheldon Concert Hall, and other ensembles and venues. Internationally, Freund's music has been played in Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Russia, and the UK. His works have been recorded on the Innova, Crystal, and Centaur labels.

Freund is the founding cellist of the new music ensemble Alarm Will Sound, described by the *New York Times* as "the future of classical music." In addition, he serves as the Director of the Mizzou New Music Initiative and the Music Director of the Columbia Civic Orchestra.

Please notify the composer of any performances

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Life (Still) Goes On

for Julie Rosenfeld

Stefan Freund
(2015)

Laid back, ♩ = 60

Violin

Piano

Laid back, ♩ = 60

p painfully expressive

pp

4

mp

p

7

mf

p

mp

10

sfz

12

mf

Musical score for piano, measures 14-26. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) and includes dynamic markings and articulation symbols.

Measures 14-18: Treble clef contains complex chords and melodic lines with accents (>) and slurs. Bass clef contains a descending eighth-note line. Dynamics include *f* (forte) at measure 17.

Measures 19-21: Treble clef continues with complex chords and melodic lines. Bass clef contains complex chords and a descending eighth-note line. Dynamics include *sfz* (sforzando) at measure 19 and *p* (piano) at measure 21.

Measure 22: Treble clef contains a melodic line starting with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). Bass clef contains complex chords and a descending eighth-note line. A section marker **A** is present above the treble clef.

Measures 23-26: Treble clef contains a melodic line. Bass clef contains complex chords and a descending eighth-note line. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) at measure 23.

29

mp

p

32

p *mf* *p* *mf*

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

35

p

p cresc.

B

37

mf

mp warm

39

Measures 39-41 of a musical score. The top staff is a single melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The bottom two staves are a grand staff with complex chordal accompaniment, including a *f* dynamic marking and two instances of *Sub* (sub-octave) markings in the bass line.

42

Measures 42-44 of a musical score. The top staff continues the melodic line. The bottom two staves feature a grand staff with complex chordal accompaniment, including a *sfz* dynamic marking.

45

C

Measures 45-47 of a musical score. A box labeled 'C' is placed above the first measure of the top staff. The top staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The bottom two staves are a grand staff with complex chordal accompaniment, including a *sfz* dynamic marking and two instances of *Sub* markings in the bass line.

48

Measures 48-50 of a musical score. The top staff continues the melodic line. The bottom two staves are a grand staff with complex chordal accompaniment, including a *Sub* marking in the bass line.

51 *rit.*
mp
rit.
p
pp

D Leaping forward, ♩ = 160
54 *mf*
Leaping forward, ♩ = 160
f *p* *tr* *mf*
mf *f* *p* *f*
59 *f* *p* *tr* *ff* *mf*
f *p* *f* *p*

E
64 *f*
f

70

p *f* *p*

V IV

77

p *f* *p*

V IV

83

p *f* *p*

V IV

F

89

p *f* *p*

sul III sul II sul I

mf

95

f *mf* *ff*

G

100

p *mysteriously*

106

p *mf*

112

p *p* *cresc.* *cresc.*

118 H

f *sfz*

123

sfz

128

sfz *sfz*

rit.

134

mf *rit.* *p*

mf *sfz* *p*

140 Sluggish, ♩ = 100

I *accel.*

p accel.

8va

Sluggish, ♩ = 100

p sfz

pp

Sub

145

Tempo I, ♩ = 160

mf p

Tempo I, ♩ = 160

p

151

J

mf p

legato

sub. f

p

157

p

pizz. mp

arco mf

163 *pizz.* *arco*

mf *slightly tense*

f

Sva

f *p* *not too short*

169

p *relaxed*

176

K

pp *p* *mysterious again*

sub. f *p*

182

188

mp *cresc.*

cresc.

This system contains measures 188 through 192. The upper staff features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* and a *cresc.* instruction. The lower staff provides harmonic support with a *cresc.* instruction.

193

L

f *sfz*

f *sfz*

This system contains measures 193 through 197. A box labeled 'L' is positioned above the first staff. The upper staff has a dynamic marking of *f*. The lower staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *sfz*.

198

sfz *sfz*

This system contains measures 198 through 202. The lower staff features dynamic markings of *sfz* in two locations.

203

sul I sul II sul IV **M** *mf* *mf*

This system contains measures 203 through 207. The upper staff includes performance instructions: *sul I*, *sul II*, and *sul IV*. A box labeled 'M' is placed above the staff. Dynamic markings of *mf* are present in both the upper and lower staves.

N

209

sub. *f* *mf* sub. *f*

sub. *f* *mf* sub. *f*

215

mf *f*

mf *f*

222

mf *f*

mf *f*

229

tr *mf* *f*

mf *f*

236 *sul IV* *sul III* *sul II* **O** *ff* *tr^b*

p *ff* *tr^b*

242 *tr^b* *p* *f* *p* *f*

tr^b *p* *f* *p* *f*

247 *sul II* *tr^b* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *f*

sul II *tr^b* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *f*

253 **P** *sim.* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *mf* *ff*

P *sim.* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *mf* *ff*

256

mf *f* *mf* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

258

f *mf* *mf* *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *ff*

261

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

265

f *ff* *ff* *f* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Q

268

Musical score for measures 268-269. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The top staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *ff* and *f*. The grand staff contains a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines, also marked with *f* and *ff*. A *8va* marking is present above the right-hand treble staff. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4.

270

Musical score for measures 270-272. The system consists of three staves. The top staff has a melodic line with a *ff* marking in measure 270, followed by a change to 4/4 time signature and *p* markings. The grand staff accompaniment is marked with *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *mf*. A *8va* marking is present above the right-hand treble staff. The key signature has one flat.

273

Musical score for measures 273-276. The system consists of three staves. The top staff features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 273, marked with *f* and *p*. The grand staff accompaniment is marked with *p* and *mf*. A *3* marking is placed above the first measure of the top staff. The key signature has one flat.

277

Musical score for measures 277-280. The system consists of three staves. The top staff has a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 277, marked with *f*. A box containing the letter **R** is positioned above the right-hand treble staff in measure 278. The grand staff accompaniment is marked with *p* and *mf*. A *3* marking is placed above the first measure of the top staff. The key signature has one flat.

280

sul II

mf

f

sul I

mf

283

sul III

mf

f

f

286

sul I

mf

sul III *harmonic gliss.*

5

5

5

5

289

S

f — *ff* *f* — *ff* *f* — *ff* *f*

f — *ff* *f* — *ff* *with fist* *f* — *ff* *f*

Sub *Sub* *Sub*

T

292

295

299

gradually more legato

poco rit.

303

legato

U

309 *a tempo*

mf *a tempo* *f* *p* *f* *mf*

314

f *p* *ff* *mf*

V

319

p

324

distant

329 *tr*

Musical score for measures 329-333. The system includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line featuring trills and slurs, and a grand staff (left and right bass clefs) with harmonic accompaniment. The right bass clef staff has a 'tr' marking above the first measure.

334 *tr*

Musical score for measures 334-338. The system includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line featuring trills and slurs, and a grand staff (left and right bass clefs) with harmonic accompaniment. The right bass clef staff has a 'tr' marking above the first measure.

339 **W** *mf* *present*

Musical score for measures 339-343. The system includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line featuring slurs and a 'W' box above the first measure. The grand staff (left and right bass clefs) has a 'mf' marking above the first measure and 'present' below the first measure.

344 *p* *mf* *p*

Musical score for measures 344-348. The system includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line featuring slurs and triplets, and a grand staff (left and right bass clefs) with harmonic accompaniment. The right bass clef staff has 'p', 'mf', and 'p' markings above the first, third, and fifth measures respectively.

349

X

354

f

359

Y

364

mp

cresc. poco a poco

p cresc. poco a poco

369

Musical score for measures 369-372. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the top staff is a simple line of quarter notes. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

373

Musical score for measures 373-377. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the top staff continues with quarter notes. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff maintains the rhythmic pattern from the previous system.

378

Z

Musical score for measures 378-382. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature changes to two sharps (F# and C#). A box containing the letter 'Z' is placed above the first staff. The melody in the top staff features a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The piano accompaniment in the grand staff also features a dynamic marking of *f* and includes complex chordal textures with many accidentals.

383

Musical score for measures 383-387. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody in the top staff includes a dynamic marking of *f* and a time signature change to 3/4. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff features complex chordal textures and a time signature change to 3/4.

389

ff *f*

ff

393

poco rit.

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

poco rit.

f *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

AA

396

a tempo

a tempo *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

f *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

8va

399

ff *mf* *f* *mf*

ff *mf*

8va

(8va)-----

402 sul IV sul III

406 sul II sul I

409

411 sul I

BB

(Sub)-----

413

Musical score for measures 413-415. The system consists of three staves: a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line features a melodic line with dynamic markings *f*, *sfz*, and *mf*. The piano accompaniment includes chords and arpeggiated figures with dynamic markings *f* and *mf*. The time signature is 5/4.

416

Musical score for measures 416-420. The system consists of three staves. The vocal line continues with a melodic line and dynamic marking *sfz*. The piano accompaniment features chords and arpeggiated figures with dynamic marking *sfz*. The time signature is 5/4.

421

Musical score for measures 421-425. The system consists of three staves. The vocal line continues with a melodic line and dynamic markings *sfz* and *ff*. The piano accompaniment features chords and arpeggiated figures with dynamic markings *sfz* and *ff*. The time signature is 5/4. A dashed line labeled "Sub" is present below the piano accompaniment staves.

426

Musical score for measures 426-430. The system consists of three staves. The vocal line features a melodic line with dynamic markings *ff*, *f*, and *ff*. The piano accompaniment includes chords and arpeggiated figures with dynamic markings *sfz*, *sffz*, *f*, and *ff*. The time signature is 5/4. A dashed line labeled "Sva" is present below the piano accompaniment staves.