

UCLA

Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

The Garden of Forking Paths

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0dr5d45h>

Author

Morris, Jeff

Publication Date

2020

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

Jeff Morris

The Garden of Forking Paths

for string quartet

(2018)

JEFF MORRIS

THE GARDEN OF FORKING PATHS

for string quartet

Duration

7 minutes

Instrumentation

2 violins
viola
violoncello

Program Note

In his short story, “The Garden of Forking Paths” (1941), Jorge Luis Borges imagines a labyrinthine book in which paths of time fork off from one another in a multiverse of possibilities. Ultimately, the story invites us to wonder about the role of fate in the paths we choose—could we have chosen another path and ended up anywhere different after all?

The music peers down a number of paths, each trailing off in a different direction, each landing at the new junction. It repeatedly grasps for stable, constant pitches, and they tumble off into sequences.

<http://morrismusic.org>

© 2018 Nobishnoblin (ASCAP)

About the Composer

Jeff Morris has won awards for making art emerge from unusual situations: music tailored to architecture and cityscapes, performance art for the radio, and serious concert music for toy piano, robot, Sudoku puzzles, and paranormal electronic voice phenomena. He has presented work in the Onassis Cultural Center (Athens), Triennale Museum (Milan), D-22 (Beijing's avant-garde music scene), the International Symposium on Electronic Art (Vancouver, Canada), the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum (Austin), and the Chicago Architecture Foundation's "Open House Chicago." His work has won awards in the Concours de Bourges (France), Viseu Rural (Portugal), Music in Architecture International Competition (Austin), the UnCaged Toy Piano Competition (NYC), and the "Radio Killed the Video Star" Competition (NYC). He has two albums of live sampling improvisations forthcoming from PARMA Recordings (distributed internationally and online via Naxos). Writings about his works and their aesthetics have been presented at the International Computer Music Conference, Generative Art International Conference, and Computer Art Congress and are published by Leonardo Music Journal, Springer, and IGI Global.

Full Score

The Garden of Forking Paths

After the short story by Jorge Luis Borges

Duration: 7 minutes

Jeff Morris

Andante (♩ = 80)

Violin 1

Violin 2 *solo*

Viola

Violoncello

mp *mf*

3

3 *mp*

3 *mp*

A

più mosso (♩ = 88)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

pp

mf

mf

mf

sub. pp

sub. pp

sub. pp

3

3

3

12 G.P.

Vln. 1: *ff* pizz. *sfz* arco

Vln. 2: *f* *mf* pizz. *p* *mf p* arco

Vla.: *f* *mf* *p* *mf p* arco, legato

Vc.: *f* *mf* *p* *p* *espressivo*

B

19

Vln. 1: arco *mp* < *f* *pp* dolce espressivo pizz.

Vln. 2: *pp* pizz.

Vla.: *pp* pizz.

Vc.: *mf pp* pizz.

24

Vln. 1: *f* *pp* pizz.

Vln. 2: arco, legato *mf* *p* arco *pp* pizz.

Vla.: arco, legato *mf* *p* pizz.

Vc.: *p*

28

Vln. 1 *mp* arco

Vln. 2 arco

Vla. arco

Vc. arco

33

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. arco

Vc. *f*

C

37

accel.

Vln. 1 *f p*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. *f* *mp*

40

Vln. 1 *f* pizz. arco *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *f* pizz. arco *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

D

45 rit. Moderato (♩ = 100)

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

49 ♩ = ♩ Largo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. pizz. *p*

54

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pp

p

pp

E Adagio (♩ = 60) **molto accel.**

59

pizz. arco pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

p

p

mf

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

arco

63

molto rit. **rubato**

arco solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

f

mp

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

82 pizz. arco

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.

87 rit. **G** Largo (♩ = 50)

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.

92

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.

100

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

107

G.P. G.P. pizz. G.P.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pp

H

Allegro (♩ = 120)

arco, sul ponticello

114

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pp

pp

mp

pp

119

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

124 **Largo** (♩ = 50)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

ord.

ord.

ord.

ord.

130 **Andante** (♩ = 80)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

I

pizz.

arco ten.

accel.

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

cresc.

cresc.

134

rit.

legato

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

legato

p cresc.

accel.

137

mp

p

pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

p cresc.

pizz.

mp

p

140

Vln. 1

Freeze left hand in place.
Move right hand slowly toward face
and upward, still plucking the air lightly,
as if continuing the left hand's motion
up the fingerboard and into the sky.

Vln. 2

Freeze left hand in place.
Move right hand slowly toward face
and upward, still plucking the air lightly,
as if continuing the left hand's motion
up the fingerboard and into the sky.

Vla.

Freeze left hand in place.
Move right hand slowly toward face
and upward, still plucking the air lightly,
as if continuing the left hand's motion
up the fingerboard and into the sky.

Vc.

Freeze left hand in place.
Move right hand slowly out and upward
still plucking the air lightly, as if continuing
the left hand's motion along the fingerboard
and sweeping up into the sky.

The image shows a musical score for four instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score is divided into four measures. The first measure contains musical notation for each instrument, including notes and rests. The subsequent three measures contain performance instructions for each instrument, which are identical for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla., and slightly different for Vc. The instructions describe hand positions and movements, such as freezing the left hand and moving the right hand slowly toward the face and upward, while plucking the air lightly. The score is written in treble clef for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, and bass clef for Vla. and Vc. The page number 140 is written above the first measure of Vln. 1.