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Title

Elisa

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Elisa /ɛˈli sə/

2020

trio for flute, prepared piano, and viola

Lang Chen

Dedicated to Elisa D'Odorico

Duration: ca. 15'

Instrumentation

flute

prepared Piano

viola (prepared violin)

Performance Notes

Piano

The piano lid should be removed.

Pedaling is largely determined by the pianist, unless there are specific indications.

Optional alternative tuning: the pianist is encouraged to experiment with different tunings

Preparation objects:

- 1 baby doll: place it on the strings in the lowest register
- 1 bag of at least 30 ping pong balls: before the ones intended to be put inside the piano during the performance, put about 10 ping pong balls inside the piano across the entire range of the piano
- 1 thick and heavy metal chain: place it on the strings in the lowest register at the beginning
- 2 or 3 used batteries (or similarly small, heavy metallic objects): place them on the strings in the highest register
- Ca. 5 curtain hooks: place them in-between random strings at random locations
- Ca. 7 foam toy blocks: randomly place them inside the piano across the entire range of the piano
- At least 10 paper clips: attach them to random strings at random locations
- At least 10 poker cards: place them in-between random strings at random locations
- 36 to 88 mini refrigerator magnets: attached them onto random strings (only one for each pitch)

Viola (Prepared Violin)

o.p.: overpressure

l.h.m.: left hand mute; left hand lightly touches the location that corresponds to the indicated pitch on the fingerboard

c.l.b.: col legno battuto

m.s.p.: molto sul ponticello

m.s.t.: molto sul tasto



: highest pitch possible



: increase the bowing pressure from light to overpressure



: decrease the bowing pressure from overpressure to light



: maintain the bowing pressure

Preparation objects:

Blu-Tack: apply a small amount onto all four strings at random locations ranging from the end of the fingerboard to the location near the bridge

The violist is expected to be able to play the violin on an intermediate to advanced level.

General:

——►: gradually transform from the current state to the next indicated state

Non-dyadic/Irrational meter: it has a denominator that is not a power of two, such as $\frac{2}{6}$ and $\frac{2}{5}$. Same as regular time signatures, irrational meter's denominator defines the beat as a division of a whole note, and the numerator gives the number of beats in each bar. For example, $\frac{2}{6}$ implies there are two beats in one measure, and a quarter note triplet is one beat, because a whole note is divided into six equal parts.

Accidentals affects until the next measure.

Other performance instructions can be found in the score.

Program Note

Elisa is about the unsettled and conflicting nature of an intimate relationship. It is like perceiving sweetness, tenderness, and intimacy through a lens that twists and distorts them. The music continually moves in different directions, as it struggles to settle and find peace. By the end, after the last note completes an ironic perfect authentic cadence, the last breath is final.

Elisa

for flute, prepared piano, and viola

Lang Chen

Flute

♩ = 92

Prepared Piano

Viola

flz. air. → ord. pitch

ord.

fff

n

ff

p

f *3* *p*

ON KEY

15^{ma}

drag the metal chain from the low register toward the high register

(on key)

7

8^{va}

p

f *3* *p*

IN

♩ = 92

o.p.

(o.p.)

pizz.

arco m.s.p.

ord.

fff

p

n

Fl.

5

slap tongue (s.t.)

ord.

3

ff

p

f

ff

3

P. Pno.

ff

p

f

ff

3

drag the metal chain across the strings

ON KEY

5

3

IN

p

♩ = 92

m.s.p.

(no m.s.p.)

o.p.

c.l.b. (with some hair)

pizz. (approximate pitch)

ff

p

f

ff

3

3

Fl.

8

air → s.t. pitch

ord.

f

p

f

p

3

5

ff

A

(on key)

ON KEY

f

p

5

f

ff

p

n

ff

3

8^{va}

arco

pizz.

arco o.p.

ord.

m.s.p.

f

p

ff

arco

Fl. 11

ord. 5

8^{va}

flz.

IN

forcefully drop the batteries onto the strings in the high register

P. Pno.

pizz.

arco. o.p.

8^{vb}

3

(o.p.)

quasi harmonic

m.s.p. ord.

7

p

ff

Fl. 13

ord.

3

air tone (with pitch)

p

ON KEY

3

f

(on key)

5

fff f

ff

p

P. Pno.

→ m.s.p.

ord.

5

m.s.p. ord. m.s.p.

5

ff

p

Vla.

→ m.s.p. l.h.m.

Fl. 16

B randomly play any air tones with any fingerings as fast as possible; very little pitch and **AVOID PATTERNS!**

ord.

7

p

ff

forcefully throw two ping pong balls into the piano; repeat when the ping pong balls stop bouncing 5 Times

IN

3 Times

ON KEY

3

8^{va}

p

ff

P. Pno.

1

l.h.m. irregular tremolo

2

l.h.m.; c.l.b. (no hair) irregularly bounce onto the string

randomly repeat 1 and 2 until the finish of measure 17 (any strings) **AVOID PATTERNS!**

Vla.

ord.

3

ff

f

19

Fl.

ff *p* *ff* flz. 3

P. Pno.

metal chain:
1. strike the strings in the lowest register
2. drag across the strings

ff *p* *ff*

ON KEY

3 5

Red.

Vla.

ord. → o.p. m.s.p. no o.p. o.p. no m.s.p. *ff*

3 5

ping pong ball:
forcefully throw
one into the piano

IN

25

Fl.

ord. *f* *p* *fff* *f* *fff*

air tone (half pitch) → ord.

P. Pno.

(on key) *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *fff*

8va

Red.

Vla.

no o.p. m.s.p. ord. *f* *p* *f* *fff* pizz. o.p. → ord. arco *f*

3 3 3 3

8vb

p *f*

30

Fl.

air tone (half pitch) *n* *p* *ff* *p*

P. Pno.

ff *p*

8va

(8)

Vla.

undefined pitches o.p. 7 ord. o.p. pizz. 3 *p*

fff *p* *fff*

The image displays a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Piano (P. Pno.), and Viola (Vla.). The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems, each ending with a repeat sign and a 3/4 time signature.

- Flute (Fl.):** The first system begins at measure 40. It features a melodic line with dynamics ranging from *f* (forte) to *fff* (fortississimo). The second system continues the melodic development with a *p* (piano) section followed by *fff*. The third system concludes with a *p* section and a final *fff* passage.
- Piano (P. Pno.):** The piano accompaniment is divided into two staves. The right hand plays chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand plays a more rhythmic, arpeggiated pattern. Dynamics include *f*, *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *ff*. The third system features a *ff* section followed by a *p* (piano) section.
- Viola (Vla.):** The Viola part is written in 3/4 time. It includes a variety of articulations and dynamics, such as *pizz.* (pizzicato), *arco* (arco), *ord.* (ordinario), *o.p.* (overtone), *m.s.p.* (messa di soprano), and *n* (no). Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*.

The musical score consists of three staves: Flute (Fl.), Piano (P. Pno.), and Viola (Vla.).

- Flute (Fl.):** The staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with various dynamics including *fff*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *ff*. There are annotations for "air tone (no pitch)" and "flz." (flageolet). A bracket indicates a section where the player should "alternate between ord. and air tone".
- Piano (P. Pno.):** The staff uses a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). It includes complex textures with triplets, a 7-measure rest, and a 5-measure rest. Dynamics range from *ff* to *p* and *mf*. There are also markings for *p* and *ff* in the bass line.
- Viola (Vla.):** The staff uses a treble clef. It features a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *ff*, *n* (noisy), and *ff*. There are annotations for "ord." (order), "m.s.p." (musical score page), "o.p." (orchestra page), and "pizz." (pizzicato). A bracket indicates a section for "arco l.h.m. irregular tremolo".

E

Fl. *ord.*

P. Pno.

Vla. *pizz.* *ord.* *o.p.*

p *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *fff* *f*

f *ff* *fff* *p*

p *ff* *p* *ff* *fff*

3 *7* *3* *5* *3* *5* *3*

cluster

5

Fl. *3* *ff* *fff*

P. Pno. *f* *ff* *fff*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *f* *ff* *fff*

6 *6* *6* *6* *6* *6* *6*

3 *5* *3* *5* *3* *5* *3*

cluster

F

Fl. *3* *f* *fff* *p* *f*

P. Pno. *p* *f* *ff* *fff* *f*

Vla. *m.s.p.* *ord.* *(mute II with left hand)* *(mute III with left hand)*

f *fff* *3* *n* *f* *n* *f*

15^{ma}

6

Fl. *ff* *f* *p* *f* < *ff* *f* < *ff*

P. Pno. *ff* *f* *p* *f* *p* *ff*

Vla. ord. m.s.p. ord. m.s.p. ord.

ff *f* *p* *ff* *f* *ff* *p* < *ff* *p* < *ff* *p*

Fl. 65

P. Pno.

Vla. IV o.p. harmonics gliss. 7 no o.p. m.s.p. ord.

ff *mp* *ff*

Fl. 68 G air tone

P. Pno. *p* *ff* *p* *mp* *fff* *p*

Vla. m.s.p. ord. *p* *ff* *n* *mp* *ff*

73

Fl. *f* *p* *ff* 3 3 7

P. Pno. 5 *ff* 3 3 3

Vla. *p* *fff* *ff* *fff* m.s.p. ord. pizz. 3

77

Fl. *f* *ff* *f* H

P. Pno. *f* *ff* *f* *p* *f* *p* *<* 7 5 3

Vla. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *ff* *f* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *ord.* arco (ord.) 5

81

Fl. *p* *f*

P. Pno. *f* *p* *f* 3 3 5

Vla. *m.s.p.* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *ord.* 3 3 3

84

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

ON KEY

f

m.s.p.

ord. m.s.p.

ord.

m.s.p.

ord. m.s.t.

m.s.p.

n *ff* *n* *ff* *n* *ff* *n* *ff*

89

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

I

p

f

p *n*

ff *5* *p* *n*

ord.

n *ff* *p* *n* *ff* *5* *p* *n*

flz.

94

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

ord.

ff

ff *ff* *n*

ff *5* *p* *n*

ff *5* *p* *n*

ff *5* *p* *n*

100 **J**

Fl. *n* *p* *f* *3 p* *3 f* *p* *3* *p*

P. Pno. *ff* *5* *p* *n* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *ff* *5* *p* *n*

Vla. *ff* *5* *p* *n* *n* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *c.l.b.* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *ord.* *ff* *5* *p* *n*

104

Fl. *5 f* *p* *f* *p* *5 f* *p* *7 f*

P. Pno. *ff* *5* *p* *n* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *ff* *5* *p* *n*

Vla. *ff* *5* *p* *n* *c.l.b.* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *ord.* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *c.l.b.* *ff* *5* *p* *n*

108 **K**

Fl. *p* *3* *f* *p* *f* *5* *3 p* *f* *ord.* *5* *3 p* *n*

P. Pno. *p* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *p*

Vla. *p* *ff* *5* *p* *n* *p*

Fl. ¹¹² *p* *n* *p* *ff* *ord.* *flz.*

P. Pno. (8) *ff*

Vla. *n* *p* *n* *p* *3* *n* *ff* *ord.* *c.l.b.*

Fl. ¹¹⁶ *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

P. Pno. (8) *n* *ff* *p* *n* *ff* *p* *n* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *p* *n* *ff* *p* *n* *ff* *ord.* *c.l.b.*

Fl. ¹¹⁹ *p* *ff* *3* *3* *3* *3*

P. Pno. *7* *p* *f* *p* *ff* *3* *p* *ff* *3* *5* *5* *5* *5*

Vla. *p* *n* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *p* *n* *ff* *5*

L



The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Piano (P. Pno.), and Viola (Vla.). The score is divided into three systems, each with a 3/4 time signature. The first system starts at measure 142. The Flute part has a melodic line with a crescendo and a fortissimo (ff) section. The Piano part includes instructions for 'scrape a string in the lowest register slowly (scrp. str.)' and 'using ping pong ball: repeatedly hit the string(s) in the high register; gradually increase the speed (p.p.h.)'. The Viola part has a melodic line with a crescendo and a fortissimo (ff) section. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (p, ff).

Fl.

142

P. Pno.

using ping pong ball: repeatedly hit the string(s) in the high register; gradually increase the speed (p.p.h.)

throw the ping pong ball onto the string(s) (t.p.p.)

scrp. str.

flz.

p

p.p.h.

p

ff

m.s.t. circular bowing (c.b.)

m.s.p. normal bowing

Vla.

Fl. *ord.* *ff* *p* *ff* *flz.*

P. Pno. *t.p.p.* *scrp. str.* *p.p.h.* *t.p.p.* randomly drag the metal chain in the low register (r.d.m.c.)

Vla. *ord.* *c.l.t* (with some hair) *c.l.b* *c.l.t* (with some hair) *c.l.b* *ord.* *p* *ff*

147

Fl. *air tone* *flz.* (no air tone)

P. Pno. *forcefully drop the batteries onto the strings in the high register* *r.d.m.c.*

Vla. *p* *ff* *p* *f* *m.s.p.*

151

Fl. *air tone (no pitch)* *whistle tone* *n* *p*

P. Pno.

Vla. *ord.* *m.s.p.* *ord.* *n* *p*

155

14

Fl. 160

air tone (no pitch)

ord.

p *n* *fff*

P. Pno.

ON KEY

ff *fff*

Vla.

sul D (ord.)

o.p.

(ord. dynamic) m.s.p.

I, II I, II III IV

ff *p* *fff* *mp* *mf* *ff* *fff*

ord.

o.p.

=

Fl. 165 **P**

ord.

air → s.t.

n *f* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

P. Pno.

ON KEY cluster

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

Vla.

m.s.p.

n *f*

ord.

=

Fl. 168

s.t.

flz.

ord.

p *ff* *f*

P. Pno.

3

Vla.

3 *3* *3* *3* *3* *n* *3*

15

Fl. 171 s.t. ord. *ff* *f* *fff* *f* *fff* *f* *fff*

P. Pno. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

m.s.p.

Fl. 175 *f* *fff* *f* *fff* *f* *fff*

P. Pno. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *fff* *cluster* *fff* *cluster* *8^{vb}*

Vla. *fff*

15^{ma}

Q 178 flz. ord. whistle tone with undefined pitches

Fl. *p*

P. Pno. (15) *p* scrp. str. *p.p.h* *IN*

Vla. ord. *f* m.s.p. *p*

16

Fl. 181 air tone (half pitch) ord. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *f* *ff*

P. Pno. t.p.p. *f* ON KEY 8va 5 3 3 3 5

Vla. ord. m.s.p. o.p. ord. arco m.s.p. *ff* 3 3 3 *f*

This musical score features three staves: Flute (Fl.), Piano (P. Pno.), and Viola (Vla.). The Flute part begins with a *flz.* (flautissimo) marking and a *f* (forte) dynamic, followed by a *ord.* (ordinario) section with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. The Piano part includes a complex arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a more active line in the left hand. The Viola part also features a *ff* dynamic and includes both standard and alternative notation for certain passages. The score is marked with various dynamics (*f*, *ff*) and articulations (accents, slurs, and breath marks for the flute).

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

m.s.p.

o.p. ord. o.p. ord. o.p. ord. o.p. ord. o.p.

fff ff fff ff fff ff ff fff

17

S ♩ = 60

Fl. 191 flz. ord. flz. ord. *f* *f*

P. Pno. *p* *f*

Vla. ♩ = 60 ord. *p* *f* *p* *f*

IN

==

Fl. 198 whistle tone with undefined pitches *p* *mp* ♩ = 52 **T**

P. Pno. *p* *mp* 3 5

Vla. m.s.p. (extremely unstable sounds) I II I II ♩ = 52 ord. 3 *mf* *n* *f* *p* *f* *n*

==

Fl. 204 *f* 3 flz. ord. *p*

P. Pno. *mf* *p* 3 5

Vla. *f* *p* *f* arco m.s.p. III pizz. 3

215

Fl.

f *n* *p*

3

P. Pno.

f *p*

3

Vla.

f *p* m.s.p.

220

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

223

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

226

Fl.

P. Pno.

Vla.

$V = 88$

ord.

flz.

ff

f

f

f

p

f

p

p

f

p

ff

p

f

p

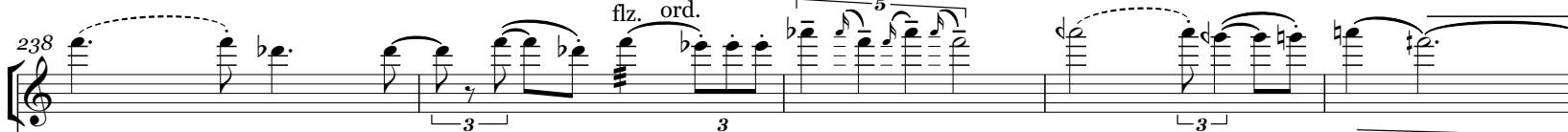
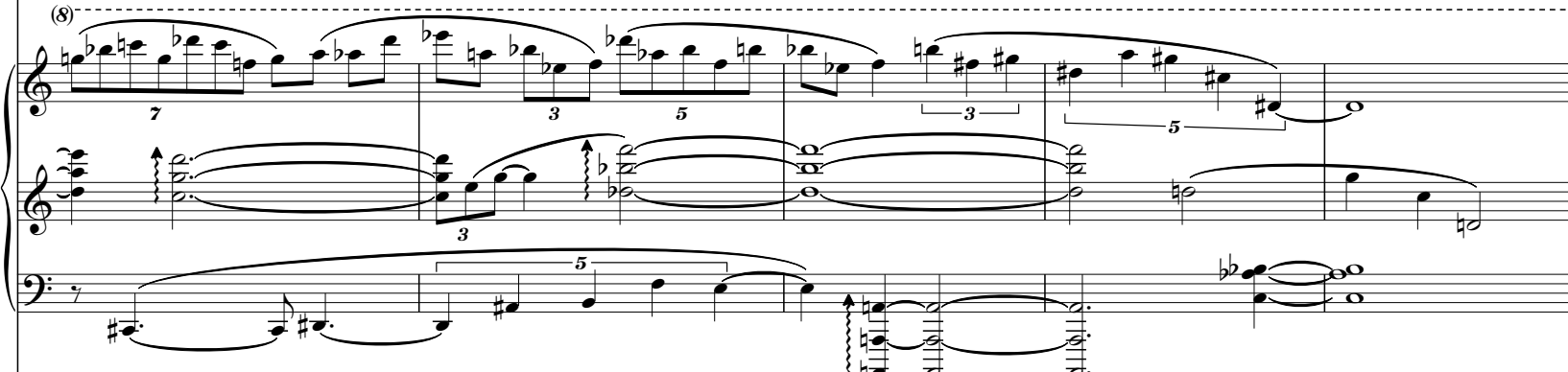
m.s.p.
no o.p.



v

molto rit.

21

Fl. ²³⁸ 
P. Pno. ⁽⁸⁾ 

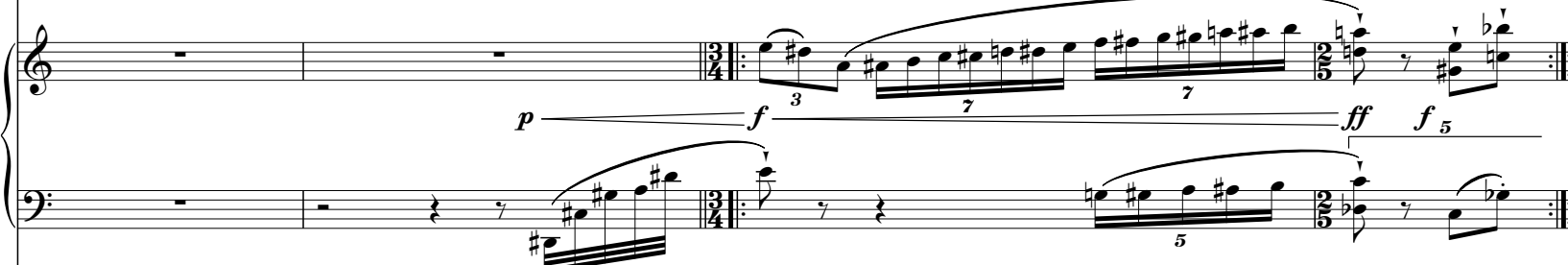
molto rit.

Vla. 

X

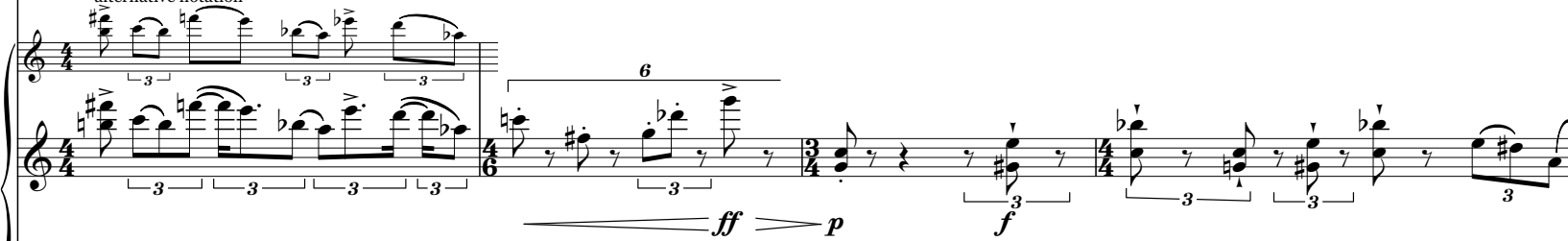
molto accel.

→ air tone

Fl. ²⁴³ 
P. Pno. 

molto accel.

Vla. 

Fl. ²⁴⁷ 
P. Pno. 
Vla. 

Fl. ²⁵¹ *f* *p* *ff* *n* *p* *f* *ord.* *air tone*

P. Pno. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *f*

Vla. *f* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *m.s.p.* *no o.p. (m.s.p.)*

Fl. ²⁵³ *p* *f* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *ord.* *m.s.p.*

P. Pno. *p* *f* *8va* *5* *3* *5* *f*

Vla. *n* *ff* *p* *3* *f* *ord.* *m.s.p.*

Fl. ²⁵⁵ *f* *p* *ord.* *flz.* *ord.* *3* *5*

P. Pno. *3* *5* *8va* *5* *3* *5* *p* *3* *5* *7*

Vla. *p* *f* *ord.* *p*

258 **molto rit.** **Z** **♩ = 60** **air tone** **ord.** **air tone** **multiphonic** **23**

Fl. **3** **n** **p** **n** **p**

P. Pno. **5** **7** **3** **lv.** **ff** **press silently** **3** **Red.** **IN** **quickly scrp. str.** **Red.**

Vla. **molto rit.** **c.b.** **l.h.m.** **♩ = 60** **gradually speed up the gliss.** **o.p.** **to prepared violin** **fff** **n**

265 **timbral trill** **articulate with the provided syllable(s) (a.s.)** **flz.** **ord.** **a.s.** **Te! Te!** **Ti!** **Ti! Te! Ci! Ti! Ci!**

Fl. **ff** **3** **5**

P. Pno. **r.d.m.c.** **(on key)** **3** **3**

P. Vln. **prepared violin** **ord.** **m.s.p.** **close to pegbox** **I** **IV** **ord.** **5** **3** **p**

271 **air tone** **ord.** **multiphonic** **air tone** **ord.** **multiphonic** **air tone** **air flz.** **ord.** **multiphonic** **flz.** **multiphonic**

Fl. **p** **f** **p** **a.s.** **Te! Ta! Ci! Ci!** **3** **p** **ff**

P. Pno. **Red.** **ON KEY STRIKE cluster** **8^{vb}**

P. Vln. **parallel bowing (one bow)** **m.s.p.** **close to pegbox** **o.p.** **m.s.p.** **ord.** **ff** **3**

277

Fl. *air flz.* *ord. flz.*
sing the pitch on the bottom

P. Pno.

P. Vln. *p*

281

Fl. *ord.* *flz.* *ord.* *a.s.*
f Te! Ta! Te! Ta! Ci! Ci!

P. Pno. *f*

P. Vln. *non vib.* *n* *f*

284

Fl. **BB** *Ci!* *Te!* *Ti! Ci! Te! Ti!* *Ci!* *Ci!* *Ci!* Repeat random syllables as fast as possible

P. Pno. **IN** t.p.p. (low register) *3* *7"*

P. Vln. **BB** *m.s.p.* *3* *I* *II* *III* *IV* repeat as randomly and quickly as possible *7"* *c.l.b.* *ord.*

286

Fl.

(a.s.)

Ci Ci Ci

3

air tone

ord.

p *ff*

5

25

P. Pno.

8^{va}

3

7

p *ff* *p* *ff*

ON KEY

8^{va}

5

P. Vln.

ord.

3

ord.

3

p *ff*

5

CC

290

Fl.

p *f*

P. Pno.

f

3

3

3

p 8^{vb}

CC

P. Vln.

3

p *f*

3

5

291

Fl.

3

3

ff

P. Pno.

f

5

3

3

ff

ff *p* (8)

P. Vln.

3

5

ff

26

Fl.

292

3

3

p

flz.

P. Pno.

3

p

ff *p*

(8)

P. Vln.

3

3

p



This musical score is for measures 294-300 of 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. It features four staves: Flute (Fl.), Piano (P. Pno.), and Violin (P. Vln.).

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 294-295 are rests. In measure 296, it plays a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, marked *f*. In measure 297, it plays a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, marked *ff*. Measures 298-300 are rests.
- Piano (P. Pno.):** Measures 294-295 are rests. In measure 296, it plays a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, marked *f*. In measure 297, it plays a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, marked *ff*. Measures 298-300 are rests.
- Violin (P. Vln.):** Measures 294-295 are rests. In measure 296, it plays a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, marked *f*. In measure 297, it plays a descending eighth-note scale from G4 to B3, marked *ff*. Measures 298-300 are rests.

The score includes dynamic markings (*f*, *ff*, *p*) and articulation marks (accents, slurs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4.

Fl. ²⁹⁵

P. Pno.

P. Vln.

ff *p* *ff* *8^{va}*

III *p*

poco accel.

Fl. ²⁹⁶

P. Pno.

P. Vln.

f *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Fl. ²⁹⁷

P. Pno.

P. Vln.

f *p*

28

Fl.

P. Pno.

P. Vln.

298

3

3

8^{va}

15^{ma}

ff

ff



Fl.

P. Pno.

P. Vln.

303

(8)

3

5

15^{ma}

fff

p

fff