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Title

Continuous Blossom

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Continuous Blossom

For Piano Trio

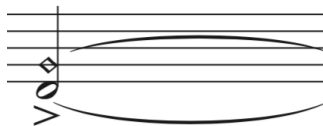
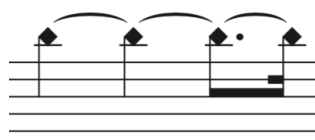
Michael Mills

Notation

Noteheads and Stems

All Players

Diamond note heads indicate harmonics. For strings, all harmonics are natural harmonics unless accompanied by the touched interval of an artificial harmonic. For the pianist, they will press on the string on or near labeled partials to create the harmonic sound*



Piano Only

X note heads indicate for the pianist to strike the string(s) in the area in front of the hammers with their fingers, using skin



Triangle note heads indicate for the pianist to strike the string(s) in the area in front of the hammers with their fingers, using their nails



Open note heads occur in the reduced staff and indicate the desired sounding pitch*

Open slashed note heads occur in the reduced staff and indicate a pitch closest to the desired tone*

Open rectangle note heads occur in the reduced staff and indicate the general area in which a harmonic cluster should sound*

Flat top noteheads indicate for the pianist to create sound by pressing their fingers on the strings behind the dampers of the notated pitches and pulling off. The sound is created by the release as opposed to a striking motion. This will be extremely soft



Crooked stems indicate the pianist to run their nail down the string. A reduced staff is sometimes placed above to indicate the desired harmonic caused by this (hitting this exactly and

*Explained further in the **Piano Harmonics** section

consistently is very difficult. The scratching sound is the primary focus, it is okay if the harmonics are not achieved with this technique)



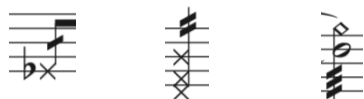
Lines

All players:

Solid Arrows indicate the progression from one performance direction to another

fr. —————> md. m.s.t. —————> s.p.

Tremolos with a single or double line are to be played in time. Three lines should be played unmeasured and as quickly as possible



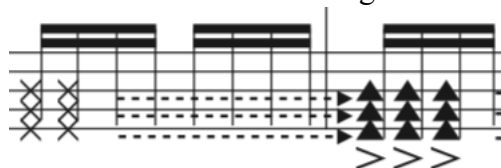
Strings only:

Trills are always played with the big note indicating the primary pitch from which the performer starts the trill. The note that the performer will trill to is always placed after the primary note in parenthesis. Accidentals are remarked for ease of reading

Glissandi are marked with solid lines connecting noteheads. Glissandi should occur over the duration of the first note the line is attached to except when notes are tied to show meter or clarify the location of other performance directions. In this exception, the tied notes that the glissando line goes through will have their noteheads removed and their durations considered part of the overarching glissando

Piano only:

Dashed Arrows indicate a gradual change in the quality of strike from the pianist



Abbreviations

Strings

s.p. = sul ponticello

s.t. = sul tasto

m.s.p. = molto sul ponticello

m.s.t. = molto sul tasto

norm. = normal

bow ad lib. = bow placement is to the discretion of the performer until otherwise notated

Piano

fr. = front

md. = middle

bk. = back

pedal ad lib. = use of the pedal is at the discretion of the performer until otherwise notated

Piano Harmonics

When the piano harmonic is created in the typical manner, both a reduced staff (to indicate desired sound pitch) and finger positioning are offered. It appears as follows:

The image displays a musical score for piano harmonics, consisting of three staves. The top staff shows desired pitches with noteheads of varying sizes. The middle staff shows finger positioning with a boxed figure '5.11' and a line leading to '9.21'. The bottom staff shows which keys to be struck with a sequence of notes and a 3/4 time signature. Dynamic markings *mf*, *mp*, and *p* are present. Callouts explain the notation: 'Shows desired pitches (larger noteheads have more importance)', 'The boxed figure indicates the partial to be struck. The location on the staff is a relative hand placement', 'Shows which keys to be struck', and 'Indicates that the staff will now show relative hand placement on the strings instead of a standard cleff: Higher on the staff correlates to reaching further along the strings and lower on the staff indicates a closer proximity to the hammers'.

Shows desired pitches
(larger noteheads have more importance)

The boxed figure indicates the partial to be struck. The location on the staff is a relative hand placement

Shows which keys to be struck

Indicates that the staff will now show relative hand placement on the strings instead of a standard cleff: Higher on the staff correlates to reaching further along the strings and lower on the staff indicates a closer proximity to the hammers

You are a flower, but you are not delicate.

~ Compassionate ~

~ Considerate ~

Yes.

But you are not delicate.

You are a flower, but not because of your beauty...

...and you are beautiful...

what banal comparison
could even begin to illustrate
the shades with which you paint?

You are a flower, but you are not dainty.

~ Charming ~

~ Clever ~

Of course.

But you are not dainty.

You are a flower, but not because of your radiance...

... and you are radiant...

what words are there among us
that have the depth to illuminate
the light your life creates

- But I say -

You are a flower because you blossom...

...and blossom...

...and blossom...

- Every day -

- Every moment -

And when it seems impossible
for all the petals of your person
to form a more perfect bloom,

I am consistently,
completely,
confoundedly amazed

by the flower that is you.

Continuous Blossom

Michael Mills

♩ = 80 Beautiful even when dissonant; strong even when fragile

Violin

Cello

Piano

fr. md. *pp*

slowly add pedal *pp* *Red.*

1 m.s.t. → s.p. → m.s.p. → s.p.

7

7

pp *sfz* *sfz*

m.s.t. → s.p. → m.s.p. → s.p.

pp *sfz* *sfz*

fr. md.

mf

14

norm. → s.t. → m.s.p. → norm.

p *pp* *sfz* *ppp* *mf* (*pp*) *sfz*

norm. → s.t. → m.s.p.

p *pp* *sfz* *ppp* *mf*

8^{va} *f*

fr.

0

18

s.p. → m.s.p. → m.s.t.

sfz *p* *sfz* *sfz* *p* *sfz*

norm. → m.s.p. → m.s.t.

(*pp*) *sfz* *psfz* *sfz* *p* *sfz*

(md.) *p* *mf* *p*

8^{va} *mf*

8^{vb}

md.

p *mf* *p*

22

s.p. → norm. → m.s.p. (2)

mp sfz sfz *pp < f > pp* *mf* *∅*

mp sfz *pp < f > pp* *mf* *∅*

mf *p mp ppp*

22

mf *p* *∅*

8vb

fr.

26 norm.

ppp sfz *p sfz* *mp* *f* *p < f sfz*

norm.

ppp sfz *p sfz* *f* *p < f sfz*

26

p < f *8va mf*

→ md. → fr. → md. → bk.

mf *p* *pp* *mf*

Continuous Blossom

31

m.s.p. → norm. (3) s.t. → s.p.

ppp → *ff* *pp* < *f* (*pp*) *sfz*

m.s.p. → norm. s.t. → s.p.

ppp → *ff* *pp* < *f* (*pp*) *sfz*

f (bk.) → *ff* *sfz* *ppp* md. → *mp*

(fr.)

pp

8^{vb}

35

norm. → s.p.

< *f* > *p* → ∅ *p* *sfz* *sfz* → ∅

norm. → s.p.

< *f* > *p* → ∅ ∅ < *p* *sfz* *sfz* → ∅

35

p < *mp* *p* < *f* > *p* 8^{va} *mp* 8^{va} *mf*

p < *f* > *p* 8^{va} *mf*

md.

39

m.s.p.

pp *mp sfz* *f* *mp* *f sfz*

m.s.p.

pp *mp sfz* *f*

39 *ppp* *f* *ppp*

8vb

fr. md.

mp *f*

43

m.s.t. m.s.p.

p *ff*

m.s.t. m.s.p.

p *ff*

43

fr.

mp *ff* *p*

fr. md.

* Ped.

16th note figures are played in time but where they occur is based on spatial appearance

measure begins when
cellist starts 16th notes

bow ad lib.

bow ad lib.

out of time bow ad lib.

cellist starts 16th notes

47

continue playing 16ths in time md. fr.

mp *p* *pp* *mf* *f* *pp* *0*

49

49

f *p*

pp

mp *fmp* *ppp*

8^{vb}

5

measure begins when
pianist hits chord

~10 seconds

measure begins when
pianist hits chord

Musical score for measures 51-53. The score is in 3/4 time. Measure 51 begins with a piano (p) chord in the right hand, marked with a wavy line and a crescendo hairpin. The left hand has a single note (F#) marked with a box and a piano (p) dynamic. Measure 52 continues with the piano (p) chord in the right hand, marked with a wavy line and a crescendo hairpin. The left hand has a single note (F#) marked with a box and a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. Measure 53 begins with a mezzo-piano (mp) chord in the right hand, marked with a wavy line and a crescendo hairpin. The left hand has a single note (F#) marked with a box and a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The score includes dynamic markings: *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *p*, *f*, and *mp*. There are also markings for *md.* (mezzo-dolce) and *fr.* (forzando).

54

measure begins when
cellist moves 16th notes
from D to C

6

Musical score for measures 54-56. The score is in 3/4 time. Measure 54 begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) chord in the right hand, marked with a wavy line and a crescendo hairpin. The left hand has a single note (F#) marked with a box and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 55 continues with the mezzo-forte (mf) chord in the right hand, marked with a wavy line and a crescendo hairpin. The left hand has a single note (F#) marked with a box and a forte (f) dynamic. Measure 56 begins with a forte (f) chord in the right hand, marked with a wavy line and a crescendo hairpin. The left hand has a single note (F#) marked with a box and a forte (f) dynamic. The score includes dynamic markings: *fp*, *mf*, *f*, and *fff*. There are also markings for *md.* (mezzo-dolce) and *fr.* (forzando).

rit.

m.s.p.

ppp

p *mp* *pp*

a tempo *rit.* *a tempo* (7)

mf *mf* *fff*

pp *mf* (md.)

8vb

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 57-59) features a piano introduction with a wavy line and 'm.s.p.' marking, followed by a piano part with triplets and a wavy line. The second system (measures 60-62) shows a piano part with a wavy line and 'mf' marking, and a piano part with a wavy line and 'mf' marking. The third system (measures 63-65) features a piano part with a wavy line and 'mf' marking, and a piano part with a wavy line and 'fff' marking. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures (3/4, 5/4, 4/4), dynamics (ppp, p, mp, pp, mf, fff), and performance instructions (rit., a tempo, m.s.p.).

63

norm. *rit.*

63

mf *mp* *p* *pp*

5.11 9.21

3 3 6 6 6 6

67

a tempo

mp *pp* *mp* *f*

f *norm.*

8

s.t. *s.p.*

67

f *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*

8vb

70

norm.

mp *mf* *pp* *sfz* *o*

ff *pp* *sfz* *o*

70

f *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*

8vb

9

fp *mf* *mf* *ff* *s.p.*

ffp *fp* *mf* *s.p.*

73

f *p* *pp*

8vb

Measures 76-77 of the piece "Continuous Blossom". The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble (likely for a second piano or a specific instrument). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music features a dense, rhythmic texture with many beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo) and *fff* (fortississimo). A crescendo hairpin is shown across the measures. The instruction "m.s.p." (mezzo-soprano) is written above the staff in measures 76 and 77. The piece concludes with a fermata in measure 77.

10 with very expressive tempo fluctuations

Measures 78-80 of the piece "Continuous Blossom". The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music features a more melodic and expressive texture than the previous section. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). The instruction "bow ad lib. rit." (bowed ad libitum, ritardando) is written above the staff in measure 78. The instruction "pedal ad lib." (pedal ad libitum) is written below the staff in measure 78. The piece concludes with a fermata in measure 80.

81 *accel. a tempo rit.*

81 *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *fmp* *p* *sfz* *p*

85 *a tempo rit. a tempo*

(11) ♩ = 60 more steadily

88

ff *mp* *mp* *p* *mp*

88

91

pp *sfz* *sfz* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

91

12 $\text{♩} = 70$

95 *accel.*

mf $\rightarrow$ *pp* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz*

mf $\rightarrow$ *pp* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz*

(*p*)

95 *mf* *p* *p* $\rightarrow$ *mf*

(8^{vb})

98 *accel.*

mp *ff* *sfzpp*

mp *ff*

98 *f*

sfz 8^{vb} *sfz* 8^{vb}

101

ffp *ffp* *ff*

ffp *ffp* *ff*

pp

12/8 12/8 12/8 12/8

103 *accel.*

ppp *ff*

ppp *ff*

12/8 12/8 12/8 12/8

13

♩ = 80

Musical score for measures 105-106. The score is in 5/4 time. The upper staves (treble and alto) show a melodic line starting in measure 106 with dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The lower staves (piano and bass) show a complex rhythmic pattern in measure 105, marked *fff*, with triplets of eighth notes and a dynamic range from *p* to *mp*. Measure 106 is mostly empty in the lower staves.

Musical score for measures 107-108. The score is in 5/4 time. The upper staves (treble and alto) show a melodic line starting in measure 107 with dynamics *p*, *sfz*, and *sfz*. The lower staves (piano and bass) show a complex rhythmic pattern in measure 107, marked *pp*, with triplets of eighth notes and a dynamic range from *pp* to *mp*. Measure 108 is mostly empty in the lower staves. The piano part includes a section with triplets of eighth notes and a dynamic range from *mf* to *p*.

14

a tempo

mp $\triangleleft$ *mf* *f*

mp $\triangleleft$ *mf* *f*

109

ff *mp* $\triangleleft$ *mf*

6 6 6

111

$\triangleleft$ *pp* $\triangleleft$ *mf* $\triangleright$ *p* $\triangleleft$ *f*

mp $\triangleleft$ *pppp* $\triangleleft$ *f*

~ 1.3 ~ 1.4

mp $\triangleleft$ *mf*

3 3

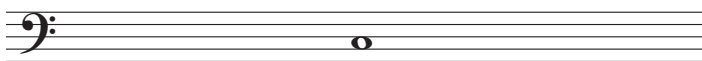
15

Cell 1 (10 - 20 seconds)

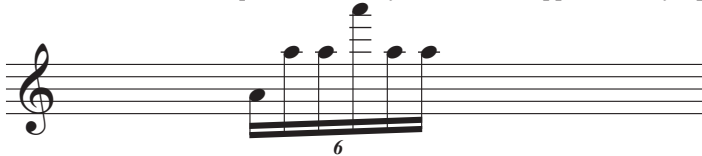
Start Cell 1 with the notated pitch crescendoing from *pppp* to *mp*. Play connected *sfz* attacks without implying any meter or pattern. These attacks should interact with the cello's but **do not** synchronize. Begin these attacks sparsely and increase their occurrence until Cell 2. Cell 2 begins when the piano's pattern changes



Start Cell 1 with the notated pitch crescendoing from *pppp* to *mp*. Play connected *sfz* attacks without implying any meter or pattern. These attacks should interact with the violin's but **do not** synchronize. Begin these attacks sparsely and increase their occurrence until Cell 2. Cell 2 begins when the piano's pattern changes

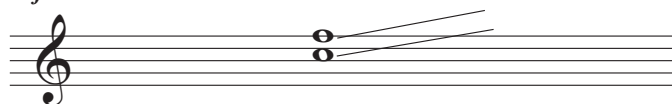


Continue playing pattern consistently in rhythm, dynamic, and articulation. Lead the change to Cell 2 when the *sf* attacks from the violin and cello are frequent and at a dynamic that is approximately *mp*



Cell 2 (10 - 25 seconds)

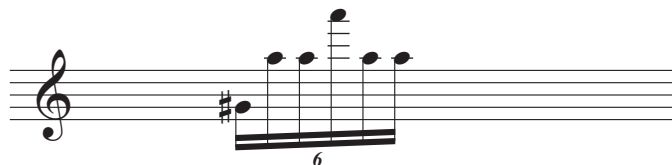
After the start of section 2, *sfz* attacks should quickly dissipate until only a sustain remains (still the same pitch from Cell 1). After a brief sustain, begin a slow glissando towards the pitch in Cell 3. Be patient; explore stopping or even going the wrong direction briefly. **Do not** reach the final pitch before the cello; the arrival at the new pitch must be synchronized as the start of Cell 3. Cell 2 starts at *mp* and crescendos to *f* at the start of Cell 3



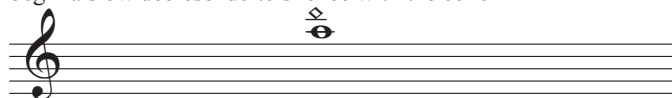
After the start of section 2, *sfz* attacks should quickly dissipate until only a sustain remains (still the same pitch from Cell 1). After a brief sustain, begin a slow glissando towards the pitch in Cell 3. Be patient; explore stopping or even going the wrong direction briefly. **Do not** reach the final pitch before the violin; the arrival at the new pitch must be synchronized as the start of Cell 3. Cell 2 starts at *mp* and crescendos to *f* at the start of Cell 3



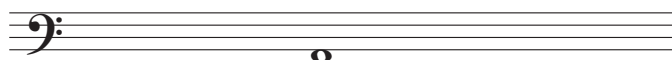
Continue as before but with new pattern. Synchronize start of Cell 3 with the violin and cello

**Cell 3 (15 - 30 seconds)**

Sustain the new note for a short period of time. Slowly move to a pulse every beat (one pulse for every sequence of the piano pattern). The stroke for the pulse should increase in size and the dynamic should crescendo from *f* to *fff* at the middle of Cell 3. The start of Cell 4 melds with the end of Cell 3. After the pianist starts Cell 4, begin a slow decrescendo to silence with the cello

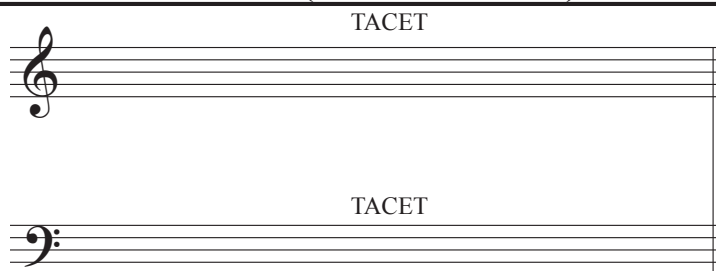


Sustain the new note for a short period of time. Slowly move to a pulse every beat (one pulse for every sequence of the piano pattern). The stroke for the pulse should increase in size and the dynamic should crescendo from *f* to *fff* at the middle of Cell 3. The start of Cell 4 melds with the end of Cell 3. After the pianist starts Cell 4, begin a slow decrescendo to silence with the violin



Continue as before but with the new pattern. Once the violin and cello have reached a steady pulse and a dynamic of approximately *fff* fade to silence. After reaching silence, begin Cell 4



Cell 4 (10 - 100 seconds)

Improvise softly with the following sounds as material: 1. Create sound by pressing fingers on the strings behind the dampers of the notated pitches and pulling off. This sound is created by the release of the fingers as opposed to a striking motion (it will be extremely soft). 2: quickly move fingers down the strings to create a "whistling" sound. 3: play harmonic chords on the notated strings. **Notice:** sounds 1 and 2 may not be possible in some venues due to the softness of sound 1 and the inability for some pianos to create sound 2. If this is the case, continue on with sound 3 only. A triplet pulse should be incorporated in the improvisation and the pedal should be held down throughout

