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Retro Non

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TATEV AMIRYAN

String Quartet
Retro Non

(No way back..)

Duration: 10 min.

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Program notes

Retro Non (in Latin - “no repeat”) is about the life-changing choices that we have to make sometimes unwillingly. It’s about the places left behind where we can no longer return to because we are no longer a part of them, and because they are no longer the same. It’s about the longing, the sorrow, and the feeling of loss that we carry inside, along with the memories of all those places, during all our life. *Retro Non* is about the feelings and experiences of all the people who have been forced to leave their homeland for different reasons, and who are trying to create a new life on foreign land.

The music in the piece combines Armenian traditional modes and scales with Western contemporary harmonies. It incorporates elements typical to Armenian traditional music (folk melodies, sacred music) and resembles ornamental patterns similar to Armenian traditional art forms such as miniature paintings and cross stones. Every small particle in the ornament is essential and plays an important role in creating the whole. Thus, all the short notes in the piece need to be treated individually, as a part of the melody, not as an embellishment, and need to be played deeper and emphasized, without slurs and legatos.

Retro Non received the 1st prize at Chamber Music Composition Competition at University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance in 2012 and was premiered by Carpe Diem String Quartet. In 2018 it was awarded the 1st Prize at Abundant Silence Composition Competition in Chamber Ensemble category and was performed by Playground Ensemble in Denver, CO. In 2019 it was published by Abundant Silence. In 2019, *Retro Non* won Juventas New Music Ensemble Call for Scores and was performed by Juventas New Music Ensemble at “Voices of America” concert in Boston, MA.

String Quartet *Retro Non*

(No way back..)

2012

TATEV AMIRYAN

Adagio, Espressivo ♩ = 60

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

rit.

a tempo dim.

mf

f

mp

p

dim.

mf

f

mp

p

dim.

mf

f

mp

p

mf

f

mp

Retro Non

16

Musical score for measures 16-19. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 16 starts with a treble clef and a common time signature. Vln. I has a triplet of eighth notes. Vln. II has a half note. Vla. has a half note with a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. has a half note with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics range from *mp* to *f*. Measure 17 continues the patterns. Measure 18 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 19 ends with a fermata.

20

Musical score for measures 20-23. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 20 starts with a treble clef and a common time signature. Vln. I has a triplet of eighth notes. Vln. II has a half note. Vla. has a half note with a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. has a half note with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics range from *mf* to *ff*. Measure 21 continues the patterns. Measure 22 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 23 ends with a fermata.

24

Musical score for measures 24-27. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 24 starts with a treble clef and a common time signature. Vln. I has a triplet of eighth notes. Vln. II has a half note. Vla. has a half note with a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. has a half note with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics range from *mp* to *mf*. Measure 25 continues the patterns. Measure 26 has a *mp* dynamic. Measure 27 has a *p* dynamic. The score ends with a fermata.

rit. **Vivace** ♩ = 73

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29

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

mp *mf* *mf*

p *mp* *mf*

mf

Detailed description: This system covers measures 29 to 31. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. Measures 29 and 30 are marked *mp* and contain triplets in all parts. Measure 31 is marked *mf* and features a crescendo leading to a *mf* dynamic. The Violin I part has a melodic line with triplets, while the Violin II, Viola, and Cello parts provide harmonic support with rhythmic patterns.

32

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

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

Detailed description: This system covers measures 32 to 34. Measures 32 and 33 are marked *mp* and contain triplets. Measure 34 is marked *mp* and features a crescendo leading to a *mf* dynamic. The Violin I part has a melodic line with triplets, while the Violin II, Viola, and Cello parts provide harmonic support with rhythmic patterns.

35

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

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

Detailed description: This system covers measures 35 to 37. Measures 35 and 36 are marked *f* and contain triplets. Measure 37 is marked *f* and features a crescendo leading to a *f* dynamic. The Violin I part has a melodic line with triplets, while the Violin II, Viola, and Cello parts provide harmonic support with rhythmic patterns.

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38

Vln. I *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

41

Vln. I *ff* *f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vln. II *ff* *f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vla. *ff* *f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vc. *ff* *f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

44

rit. **Andante, Grazioso** ♩ = 55

Vln. I *fff* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *fff* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *fff* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *fff*

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Leggiero ♩ = 65

48

Musical score for measures 48-53. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Leggiero' with a quarter note equal to 65. The dynamics are *mf* (measures 48-50), *mp* (measures 51-52), and *dim.* (measures 53-54). There are triplets in measures 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52. The Vc. part has a triplet in measure 54.

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The tempo changes from *rit.* to *a tempo*. The dynamics are *mp* and *mf* in measures 54-55, and *mp* and *mf* in measures 56-57. There are triplets in measures 54, 55, 56, and 57. The Vc. part has a triplet in measure 54 and a sextuplet in measure 56.

58

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The tempo changes from *rit.* to *a tempo*. The dynamics are *mp* and *mf* in measures 58-59, and *f* in measures 60-61. There are triplets in measures 58, 59, 60, and 61. The Vc. part has triplets in measures 58, 59, and 60.

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6

Musical score for measures 62-64, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score includes triplets and dynamic markings such as *mp* and *f*.

Scherzo, Guicoso

Playful

Musical score for measures 65-68, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score includes a *rit.* marking and dynamic markings such as *mf*, *mp*, and *p*.

Musical score for measures 69-72, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *p*, and *mp*, and performance instructions like *pizz.* and *arco*.

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74

musical score for measures 74-76, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with dynamic markings and performance instructions.

Vln. I: arco, *mp* \rightarrow *mf*, pizz., *mp*

Vln. II: *mp*

Vla.: pizz., *mp*

Vc.: *mp*

77

musical score for measures 77-79, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with dynamic markings and performance instructions.

Vln. I: arco, *mf*, pizz., *mp*, arco

Vln. II: *mp*, arco

Vla.: arco, *mf*, pizz., *mp*

Vc.: *mp*

80

musical score for measures 80-82, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. with dynamic markings and performance instructions.

Vln. I: *mf* \rightarrow *mp*, *mf*

Vln. II: *mf* \rightarrow *mp*, *mf*

Vla.: *mf* *mp*, *mf*

Vc.: *mf* *mp*, *mf*

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83

Musical score for measures 83-85. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. Slurs and hairpins indicate dynamic changes across the measures.

86

Musical score for measures 86-88. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 3/4. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamics include *f*, *ff*, *fff*, and *p*. A *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking is present in measure 88. Slurs and hairpins indicate dynamic changes.

91

Musical score for measures 91-93. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 3/4. The music features long, sustained notes with slurs. Dynamics include *fp*. A *Tense arco* marking is present above the Vln. I staff in measure 91. Slurs and hairpins indicate dynamic changes.

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98

Score for measures 98-103. The system includes four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. Vln. I has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, *fp*, and *fp*. Vln. II has a sparse accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *mp*. Vla. has a melodic line with dynamics *fp*, *f*, and *fp*. Vc. has a bass line with dynamics *fp*.

104

Score for measures 104-109. The system includes four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. Vln. I has a melodic line with dynamics *fp*, *fp*, *fp*, and *fp*. Vln. II has a sparse accompaniment with dynamics *mp* and *mp*. Vla. has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, *fp*, *f*, *fp*, and *fp*. Vc. has a bass line with dynamics *fp*.

110

Score for measures 110-115. The system includes four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. Vln. I has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, *fp*, *f*, *fmp*, *fmp*, and *f*. Vln. II has a sparse accompaniment with dynamics *mp*. Vla. has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, *fmp*, *fmp*, and *f*. Vc. has a bass line with dynamics *fp* and *fmp*.

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10

114

Violin I: *mp*, *fmp*, *fmp*, *f* ³, *mp*, *fmf*, *f*

Violin II: *mf*, *f*

Viola: *mp*, *fmp*, *fmp*, *fmp* ³, *fmf*, *f*

Violoncello: *fmp*, *fmp*, *fmf*, *f*

118

Violin I: *ff*, *fff*, *mf*, *mp* (rit.)

Violin II: *ff*, *fff*, *mf*, *mp*

Viola: *ff*, *fff*, *mf*, *mp*

Violoncello: *ff*, *fff*, *mf*

a tempo Patetico
Deep and dramatic

123

Violin I: *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *f*

Violin II: *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*

Viola: *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*

Violoncello: *f*, *mf*, *f*

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126

Vln. I *f* *ff*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vc. *f* *ff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 126 to 131. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 126 starts with a half note G2. From measure 127, the strings play a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and quintuplets. Dynamic markings range from *f* to *ff*. Measure 131 ends with a fermata.

129

Vln. I *ff* *fff* *fff*

Vln. II *ff* *fff* *fff*

Vla. *ff* *fff* *fff*

Vc. *ff* *fff* *fff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 129 to 131. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 4/4. The music is characterized by intense fortissimo dynamics, with *fff* appearing in measures 130 and 131. The strings play a dense texture of triplets and sixteenth notes. Measure 131 ends with a fermata.

132

Vln. I *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *mf* *mp* *dim.*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *dim.*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p*

rit.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 132 to 135. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 4/4. The music transitions to a more melodic and dynamic style. Dynamics range from *mf* to *p*. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the first staff. Measure 135 ends with a fermata.

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138 *a tempo*

Semplice
Light and ascetic

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

mp
p
mp
mp

144

Perdendo
Disappearing

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

p
p
p
p

3

150

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

pp
ppp
pp
ppp

pp
ppp