

**UCLA**

**Contemporary Music Score Collection**

**Title**

Lullaby for Silent Victims

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5rv2f8m2>

**Author**

Pirasteh, Sepehr

**Publication Date**

2020

Sepehr Pirasteh

**Lullaby for Silent Victims**  
for String Quartet

Mount Pleasant, MI USA  
October 2017

**Program Note:**

Lullaby is one of the most important parts of the oral literature in Iran and sometimes they could be considered as narrators of the history. Lullaby for Silent Victims is based on a traditional Persian lullaby and I have used it to capture the political atmosphere of Iran over 40 years under darkness and oppression. I wrote this piece when I moved to the U.S. as a protest to all of the ideologies that I was forced to believe under a theocratic regime; for the people who endured a lot of pressure and fought against dictatorship.

The piece starts with a quiet, contemplative melody. Then, the music transitions into a jarring, fast-paced section. Variations of the lullaby theme are interspersed throughout the aggressive, conflicting second theme. The combination of these two themes results in a grotesque, ominous atmosphere.

**Duration:**

ca 8-9 minutes

**Composer's contact info:**

Email: [sepehrp729@gmail.com](mailto:sepehrp729@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sepehrpirasteh.com](http://www.sepehrpirasteh.com)

# Lullaby for Silent Victims

for String Quartet

Slow and Melancholic

♩ = ca 100

Sepehr Pirasteh

(b. 1993)

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 1-5. The score is in 6/8 time and features dynamics of *pp* and *p*. The Violin I part has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and slurs.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 6-9. The score continues the melodic and harmonic material from the previous system, with dynamics of *p* and *pp*. The Violin I part begins with a measure rest and then continues its melodic line.



Fast and Aggressive

♩ = ca 164

**A**

21

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*pp* *ff* *fff* strong attack

28

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

34

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

1.

*p*

*ff*

*p*

*p*

**B**

40

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

2.

*p*

*ff*

*ff*

*p*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

46

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*ff*

50

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*pp*

*fff*

*p*

*pp*

*fff*

*p*

*pp*

*fff*

*mf*

*pp*

*fff*

*mf*



54

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

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

*f*

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

*f*

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

59

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*p* *f*

*p* *f*

*mf* *p* *f*

*mf* *p* *f*



75

Vln I *mf* *p* *f*

Vln II *mf* *p* *f*

Vla *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

80

Vln I *fff* *mf* *f*

Vln II *fff* *mf* *p* *f*

Vla *fff* *p*

Vc. arco *fff* *p*

85

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 85 to 89. It features four staves: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. In measure 85, Vln I has a whole rest, while Vln II, Vla, and Vc. play quarter notes. From measure 86 onwards, all instruments play eighth notes. The dynamic marking *fff* (fortississimo) is present in measures 86, 87, 88, and 89. The Vln I part has a fermata in measure 89.

90

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*p* — *f*

*p*

*f*

*f*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 90 to 94. It features the same four staves as the previous system. In measure 90, Vln I has a whole rest, while Vln II, Vla, and Vc. play quarter notes. From measure 91 onwards, all instruments play eighth notes. The dynamic markings are: *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Vln I in measure 91; *f* (forte) for Vln I in measure 92; *mf* for Vln II in measure 91; *p* (piano) for Vln II in measure 92, transitioning to *f* in measure 93; *p* for Vla in measure 91, transitioning to *f* in measure 94; and *p* for Vc. in measure 91, transitioning to *f* in measure 94. The Vln I part has a fermata in measure 94.

95

1 - 2"

Vln I

Freeze and don't move!

*mf*

*p*

Vln II

1 - 2"

Freeze and don't move!

Vla

1 - 2"

Freeze and don't move!  
Then play suddenly!

*mf*

Vc.

1 - 2"

Freeze and don't move!  
Then play suddenly!

*mf*

*pizz.*

100

Vln I

*ff*

*f*

Vln II

*f*

Vla

*f*

*ff*

*f*

Vc.

*f*

*f*

104

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

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

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

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

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

arco

109

**D**

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*fff* *fff* *fff* *mf*

*fff* *p*

pizz.

pizz.

115

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*mf*

*p*

Detailed description: This musical score block covers measures 115 through 118. It features four staves: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Vln I staff is mostly silent, with rests. The Vln II staff plays chords in the right hand, with notes marked with accents (>) and flats (b). The Vla staff has a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with some notes marked with accents (>). The Vc. staff plays a simple bass line with notes marked with accents (>). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 in measure 116 and back to 3/4 in measure 118. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

119

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*fff*

Detailed description: This musical score block covers measures 119 through 124. It features the same four staves as the previous block. The Vln I staff is silent. The Vln II staff plays chords in the right hand, with notes marked with accents (>) and flats (b). The Vla staff has a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with notes marked with accents (>). The Vc. staff plays a simple bass line with notes marked with accents (>). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 in measure 120 and back to 3/4 in measure 122. A dynamic marking of *fff* is present in measures 120, 121, and 122. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat sign in measure 124.

pizz.

125

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*p* *f* *ff*

*ff* *mf*

*ff* *p*

Detailed description: This musical score covers measures 125 to 128. It features four staves: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature changes from 6/8 to 2/4 and then to 3/4. Measure 125 is marked 'pizz.' (pizzicato). Vln I starts with a melodic line in 6/8, then continues in 2/4 and 3/4. Vln II is mostly silent, with a few notes in 2/4 and 3/4. Vla has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in 6/8, then continues in 2/4 and 3/4. Vc. has a simple bass line in 6/8, then continues in 2/4 and 3/4. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, *ff*, and *mf*.

arco

129

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

*P dramatic*

Detailed description: This musical score covers measures 129 to 132. It features the same four staves as the previous section. The key signature remains two flats. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and then to 3/4. Vln I is marked 'arco' and plays a melodic line with slurs. Vln II plays a series of chords. Vla has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Vc. has a simple bass line. Dynamics include *P dramatic*.



134

Vln I *tr* *ff*

Vln II *ff*

Vla *ff*

Vc. *ff*

139

*molto rit.* *Gradually slower*

Vln I *sfff* 3 - 4"

Vln II *arco* *sfff* 3 - 4"

Vla *sfff* 3 - 4"

Vc. *arco* *sfff* 3 - 4"

**E** Very slow and meaningful

♩ = ca 60-70

143

Vln I *ff* molto espress. *p*

Vln II *ff* molto espress. *p*

Vla *ff* molto espress. *p*

Vc. *ff* molto espress.

[no dynamic change here]

148

Vln I *p* *f*

Vln II *f* *mp*

Vla *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *ff*

153

Vln I

*p*

*f*

Vln II

*p*

*f*

Vla

*f*

*p*

Vc.

*f*

*ff*

158

Vln I

*pp*

*f*

Vln II

*pp*

*f*

Vla

*pp*

*f*

Vc.

*f*

*ff*

[break the gliss.]

163

Vln I *p*

Vln II *f* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Vla *mf*

Vc. *mf*

**F** sul pont.

169

Vln I *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vln II *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vla *pp* *mp* *p* *molto espress.* [sul IV (C)]

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

173

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

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

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

*mp* *p* *pp*

[let it ring]  
pizz.

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

179

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

3 - 4"

3 - 4"

3 - 4"

3 - 4"

*mf* *p*

*mf* *p* *pp*

**G** Aggressive and very shocking  
 ♩ = ca 100

186 arco **molto accel.**

Vln I *fff*

Vln II *fff*

Vla *fff*

Vc. *fff*

**molto rit.**

190

Vln I *ppp* *f*

Vln II *ppp* *f*

Vla *ppp* *f*

Vc. *ppp* *f*

[high random pitch]

[high random pitch]

[high random pitch]

[high random pitch]

195

[higher than previous] [highest poss. pitch]

Vln I *pp* [higher than previous] *ff* *p* [highest poss. pitch] *fff* *sfff* pizz.

Vln II *pp* [higher than previous] *ff* *p* [highest poss. pitch] *fff* *sfff* pizz.

Vla *pp* [higher than previous] *ff* *p* [highest poss. pitch] *fff* *sfff* pizz.

Vc. *pp* *ff* *p* *fff* *sfff* pizz.