

John Plant

Quintet

for two violins, viola, cello, and piano

duration: 16 minutes

SKETCH FOR A PROGRAM NOTE

I. Where are you?

The opening three-note motif evokes the words Where are you? This leads to a canonic dialogue for the two violins in their highest range, suggesting overlapping memories. A stark recurring funeral waltz fragment for the piano is now heard, which will recur throughout the piece as a haunting refrain, between the more sustained, longing, lyrical, desolate sections voiced by the quintet. The long coda, embedding both the opening gesture and the waltz in its texture, suggests a kind of groping towards a luminous realm, which seems more and more evanescent.

This movement was composed as an elegy for my parents.

II. Scherzo.

Spiky, nervous, clashing pizzicati yield to a brief, impetuous burst of melody, enveloped in swirling glissandi. The movement continues to unfold in a flowing but inexorable playful, spirited and mirthful rhythmic momentum.

This movement is dedicated with great affection and admiration to Blue Engine String Quartet.

III. Twilight with birds.

The twilight is permeated with fragments of birdsong accompanying the birds' soaring, swooping flight, woven into an increasingly blissful and peaceful nocturnal atmosphere. The woodpecker has the last word.

This movement is dedicated to my late aunt Helen Quilliam, founding member of Kingston Field Naturalists. A bird sanctuary in Sydenham, Ontario bears her name.

IV. Passacaglia

The Passacaglia is based on a mode from which the notes of the C sharp minor triad (C#, E, G#) are rigorously excluded until the very end. There are 18 variations on a theme, initially stated by the cello. The listener may recognize a shy nod (or wink) in the direction of Bach (in the theme), Rachmaninoff (variation 7) and Bizet (variation 15). The forbidden notes emerge surreptitiously from the frenetic final variation.

This movement is dedicated to my muse, my beloved wife Jocelyne, who spurs me on to new explorations. The entire work can be taken as an expression of gratitude toward the dedicatees, and toward the world we live in.

- John Plant

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**The composer gratefully acknowledges the support
of Arts Nova Scotia in the composition of this work.**

I. Where are you?

in memory of my parents

Adagio ♩ = 58

Violin 1

Violin 2

Piano

pp

fp

p

con Ped.

V1

V2

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

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

V1

V2

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

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

8va

V1

V2

mf *p* *mp* *mf*

mf *mp* *mp* *mf*

8va

25 *8va*

V1

V2

ff

ff

pp

Lento assai $\text{♩} = 80$

33 *8va*

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

p

mp

arco

sul G

mf

pppp

mp

p

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

39 ^(8^{va}) $\flat 2$

V1 *p* *mp*

V2 *pp mp* *p*

Vla *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

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

43 ^(8^{va}) $\flat 2$

Quasi doppio movimento ♩ = 76

V1 *f*

V2 *mf* *f* 6 6 6 6 6 6

Vla *f* 6 6 6 6 6 6

Vc. *f* 6 6 6 6 6 6

f

47 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 58 ♩ = 66

Vla

Vc.

47

pizz.

pp arco

p *p*

47

p

8^{vb}

55

Vla

Vc.

55

pp p

pp *mp*

55

mp

61

V1 *mf* *f* *p* *mfp* *mfp* *mfp*

V2 *mf* *p* *mfp* *mfp* *mfp*

Vla *pp* *mfp* *mfp* *mfp*

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

Pochissimo meno $\text{♩} = 52$
sul ponticello

65

V1 *mfp* *pp*

V2 *mfp* *pp* sul ponticello

Vla *mfp* *pp* sul ponticello

Vc. *mfp* *arco* *mf*

69 *ord.*

V1 *mf*

V2 *ord.*
p *mp* *mf* *f*

Vla *ord.*
p *f* *poco a poco sul ponticello*

Vc. *p* *f* *poco a poco sul ponticello*

mp

Tempo primo ♩ = 58

76

V1 *pppp*

V2 *pppp*

Vla *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *arco* *ppp*

p *mp*

Vc. 81

81

mp *p*

Adagio ♩ = 46

arco

V1 85

V2 85

Vla 85

Vc. 85

pp *pppp* *ppppp*

85

7/16 5/16

88

V1

V2

Vla

p

p

p

93

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

pp

pp

p

pp

pp

stringendo un poco

Più appassionato ♩ = 52

99

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

mf

fff con massima intensità

mf

mf

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

mf *ff* *f*

Lea.

Tempo primo ♩ = 58

Andante etereo ♩ = 66

104

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

rit.

pp

p ARE

p arcO YOU

p WHERE pizz.

pp

f

ppp

Lea.

111

V1 *mp* *8va*

V2

Vla

Vc.

116 (*8va*)

V1 *mf* *pppp*

V2 *pppp*

Vla *pppp*

Vc.

116 (*8va*)

II. Scherzo

for Blue Engine String Quartet

Vivace ♩ = 144
pizz.

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score includes staves for Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and piano (Grand Staff). The time signature is 4+2+3/16, which changes to 6/16 and then 3+3+3/16. Dynamics include forte (f) and piano (pizz.).

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score includes staves for Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and piano (Grand Staff). The time signature is 3+3+3/16, which changes to 5/16 and then 4+3/16. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and mezzo-piano (mp).

9

pizz.

arco

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

13

pizz.

ff

sfz

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

17

arco

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

22

pizz.

VUOTA

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

26

V1 *f* *mf* *arco* *sfz*

V2 *f* *mf* *arco* *arco* *sfz*

Vla *f* *mf* *sfz*

Vc. *f* *mf* *arco* *sfz*

29

V1 *pizz.* *mp* *f*

V2 *pizz.* *mp* *f*

Vla *pizz.* *mp* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *mp* *f*

32

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

p

p

p

Più sciolto ♩ = 66

35

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

f

mf arco

f

mf arco

f

mf

f (sempre pizz.)

mf

mf

mf

con Ped.

38

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

ff feroce 12:8

12:8

12:8

ff feroce 12:8

ff feroce

40

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

ff 12:8

f

ff 11:8

40

20

Musical score for measures 20-21. The score is arranged in five staves: V1 (Violin I), V2 (Violin II), Vla (Viola), Vc. (Violoncello), and Piano. Measure 20 starts at rehearsal mark 42. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 12:8. The V1 staff features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata over the final note. The V2 staff has a similar melodic line with a slur. The Vla and Vc. staves provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines. The Piano part consists of a simple accompaniment with a fermata on the first measure. A dynamic marking of *p* is present at the beginning of measure 20.

Musical score for measures 22-23. The score is arranged in five staves: V1 (Violin I), V2 (Violin II), Vla (Viola), Vc. (Violoncello), and Piano. Measure 22 starts at rehearsal mark 44. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 12:8. The V1, V2, and Vla staves feature sustained chords with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Vc. staff has a simple accompaniment. The Piano part continues with a simple accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* is present at the beginning of measure 22.

46

V1 *ff* 12:8

V2 *ff* 12:8

Vla *ff* 12:8

Vc.

48

V1

V2 12:8 7:8 9

Vla 12:8 7:8

Vc.

Agitato ♩ = 80

50

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

mp

mp

mp arco

f

ff

f

mf

(senza Ped.)

53

Vla

Vc.

f

fp

f

fp

f

mp

f

mf

p

arco

57

V1.

Vla

Vc.

pp

pizz.

f

mf

f

62

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

p

mf

fp

fp

fp

fp

fp

fp

fp

arco

f

p subito

24
65

V1 *pizz.* *arco*

V2 *f* *ff* *f* *fp* *arco* *f*

Vla *f* *ff* *f* *fmp* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *ffz* *ffz*

65 *ff* *f*

8^{vb}

70

V1 *ff*

V2 *fff* *pizz.*

Vla *ffz* *ff*

Vc. *ffz* *ff*

70 *mf*

74

V1 *fp* *f* *fp* *fp*

V2 *fp* *f* *fp* *fp*

Vla *arco* *mf* *p* *fp* *fp*

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

fp *mf* *mp*

79

V1 *p* *fp* *f* *fp* *fp*

V2 *p* *fp* *f* *fp* *fp*

Vla *p* *mf* *f*

Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *f*

mf

83

V1 *fp* *fp* *f* *mp*

V2 *fp* *fp* *fp* *f* *mp*

Vla *ff* *p* *mp*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

88

V1 *mf*

V2 *mf*

Vla *mf* *pizz.*

Vc. *mf*

8va *fff* *mf*

92

V1 *ffp* *ffp* *f* *ff*

V2 *ffp* *ffp* *f* *f*

Vla *f*

Vc. *fff* *mf* *f*

mp *p* *p*

97

V1 *fp* *f* *fp*

V2 *fp* *f* *fp*

Vla *ff*

Vc. *ff*

mp *p*

102

V1 *pizz.* *mf* *ff* *arco* *fp*

V2 *pizz.* *mf* *ff* *arco* *fp*

Vla *pizz.* *mf* *ff* *f*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *f*

106

V1 *f* *mf* *p* *mp*

V2 *f* *mf*

Vla *mf*

Vc. *mf*

110

V1 *pizz.*
mf

V2 *pizz.*
mf

Vla *p*
mf

Vc. *mf*

115

V1 *arco*
mf

V2 *mf*

Vla *mp*

Vc. *mp*

mf cantabile

mp

Meno mosso, ma con slancio ♩ = 72

Musical score for measures 120-125. The score is for Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano. The tempo is 'Meno mosso, ma con slancio' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).
Measures 120-125:
- V1: Starts with *ff* (fortissimo) and changes to *mf* (mezzo-forte) at measure 124.
- V2: Starts with *ff* and changes to *mf* at measure 124.
- Vla: Starts with *f* (forte) and changes to *mf* at measure 124.
- Vc.: Starts with *f* and changes to *mf* at measure 124.
- Piano: Starts with *p* (piano) and *sfp* (sforzando piano) in measures 120-121, then *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 122, and *mf* in measure 124. A 'con Ped.' (con pedal) instruction is present at the bottom right.

Musical score for measures 126-131. The score is for Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano. The tempo is 'Meno mosso, ma con slancio' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).
Measures 126-131:
- V1: Features a rapid sixteenth-note passage starting at measure 126, marked *ff feroce!* (fortissimo feroce!). The tempo marking '12:8' is placed above the staff.
- V2: Features a similar rapid sixteenth-note passage starting at measure 126, marked *ff feroce!*. The tempo marking '12:8' is placed above the staff.
- Vla: Features a similar rapid sixteenth-note passage starting at measure 126, marked *ff feroce!*. The tempo marking '12:8' is placed above the staff.
- Vc.: Features a simple melodic line with a few notes.
- Piano: Features a simple accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

128

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

128 *f* 12:8 12:8

mf *f*

130

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

130 *f* 12:8 12:8 *mfmf* *mf* *mf*

133

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

ff

ff

12:8

12:8

135

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

12:8

12:8

12:8

III. Birds at twilight

in memory of my aunt Helen Quilliam

Andante misterioso ♩ = 66

VI V2 Vla Vc.

ppp

ppp

ppp

pp

8va

Ped.

VI V2 Vla Vc.

pp

pizz.

f

8va

Ped.

9

V1 *8va- fp*

V2 *arco fp*

Vla *sul ponticello pp*

Vc. *pp*

p mf

fp *fp*

pp

8va-

Leo. *

12

V1 *8va- p*

V2 *ppp*

Vla *ppp ord.*

Vc. *ppp*

ppp

ppp

ppp

p

pp mp

ppp

8va-

Leo. * Leo. *

8va

16

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

f

p

pp

pp

p

9

Adagio incantevole ♩ = 60

8va

19

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

ppp

mp

pppp

pp

pppp

pppp

pp

9

Red.

22 *(8^{va})*

V1 *pp*

V2 *pp* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla *pp* *arco*

Vc. *pp*

22

24 *

V1 *pp*

V2 *pp*

Vla

Vc.

24

3

26

V1 *10:8* *12:8*

V2 *10:8* *10:8* *tr*

Vla *3*

Vc.

26

p *6* *6* *6* *3* *3* *3*

28

Ancora più adagio ♩ = 40

V1 *pppp* *pizz.* *pp* *ppp*

V2 *pppp* *pizz.* *pp* *ppp*

Vla *pppp* *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *pppp* *pizz.* *p*

28

ppp *mp* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

ped. ** ped.* ***

35 arco tap back of instrument with four fingers

V1 *mp* *ppp* tap back of instrument with four fingers *ppp*

V2 *ppp* tap back of instrument with four fingers *mp* *ppp*

Vla arco *ppp*

Vc. arco *ppp*

35 *ppp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

15^{ma-5}

3 3

Red. * Red. *

40 (tap)

V1 *p* *pppp*

V2 *ppp* *pppp*

Vla *pppp*

Vc. *pppp*

40 *pp* *pppp*

15^{ma-7:8}

3 3 5 3

Red. * Red. *

IV. Passacaglia

pour Jocelyne

Andante comodo ♩ = 66

Tema

Vc.

mp *poco* *mf*

7

Vc.

pochissimo dim. *p*

7

mp

Variation 1
Moderato $\text{♩} = 76$

13

V1 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

V2 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *mp* *pizz.* *cresc. poco a poco*

f *cresc. poco a poco*

fff
Ped.

*

16

V1 *f*

V2 *f*

Vla *f*

Vc. *f*

f

con Ped.

3
8

19 Var. 2

V1 *dim. poco a poco* *mp*

V2 *dim. poco a poco* *mp* *pizz.* *ff*

Vla *dim. poco a poco* *mp*

Vc. *dim. poco a poco* *mp*

19 *p* *f*

24 *pizz.* *ff* *5:4*

V1 *5:4*

V2 *3* *3* *3*

mf

Var. 3

Musical score for measures 30-32. The score includes staves for Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (P). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The score features various dynamics including *arco*, *fff*, and *mf*. A fermata is present over measure 31. A dashed line labeled *8va* is positioned above the V1 staff. The piano part includes a *f* dynamic in measure 31.

Musical score for measures 33-35. The score includes staves for Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (P). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The score features various dynamics including *mf* and *f*. A dashed line labeled *8va* is positioned above the V1 staff. The piano part includes a *f* dynamic in measure 33.

VI (8va)

VII

Vla

Vc.

Var. 4

Andante capriccioso ♩ = 80

VI pizz.

VII pizz.

Vla pizz.

Vc. mf arco

fff
sed.

Var. 5
arco

46

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

mp

arco *fp*

arco *p* *mp*

mp

pp *p*

8va (both hands)

1 3 2 5

mp

*

51

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

mf

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

mf

f

mf

46

Var. 6

Solenne

8va = 66

56

V1 *mp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

V2 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vla *mp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

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

gliss. sul D *gliss. sul D* *gliss. sul G*

6 *6* *6* *6*

p *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

59

V1 *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

V2 *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vla *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

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

gliss. sul G *gliss. sul G* *gliss. sul D* *gliss. sul D*

6 *6* *6* *6*

3 *3*

dim. poco a poco

61 *Con impeto* ♩ = 76

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

mp

f

9:8

9:8

Pedal each measure

63

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

mp

f

9:8

9:8

9:8

9:8

65

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

This system contains measures 65 and 66. It features four staves for strings (V1, V2, Vla, Vc.) and a grand staff for piano. The string parts consist of rhythmic patterns of eighth notes and quarter notes. The piano part features a complex texture with multiple voices, including a prominent melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. Accents (>) are placed above several notes in the piano part. The time signature is 9:8.

67

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

pp

67

67

67

67

This system contains measures 67, 68, 69, and 70. The string parts (V1, V2, Vla, Vc.) continue with their rhythmic patterns. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *pp* (pianissimo) is indicated at the end of each string staff. The time signature is 9:8.

Var. 8

70

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

ff

f

fff

Reo.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 70 to 73. The strings (V1, V2, Vla, Vc.) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The piano part features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics range from *f* to *fff*. A *Reo.* (ritardando) marking is present at the beginning of measure 71, and an asterisk (*) is placed below measure 70. Fingerings and articulation marks (accents) are clearly indicated throughout the piano part.

74

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 74 to 77. The string parts continue with their rhythmic accompaniment. The piano part maintains its intricate texture with sixteenth-note patterns and chords. Dynamics are consistent with the previous system. The score includes various articulation marks and fingerings for the piano part.

Var. 9
Con vigore ♩ = 80

Musical score for measures 77-80. The score is for five parts: Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Con vigore' with a quarter note equal to 80. The dynamics are marked *fmp* (forced mezzo-piano) with accents and hairpins. The piano part includes a 2/4 section in the right hand and a 3/4 section in the left hand.

Musical score for measures 81-84. The score is for five parts: Violin I (V1), Violin II (V2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamics are marked *fmp* (forced mezzo-piano) with accents and hairpins, and *sfz* (sforzando) for accents. The piano part includes a 2/4 section in the right hand and a 3/4 section in the left hand.

Allegro furente $\text{♩} = 108$

Var. 12

98

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

98

98

98

98

98

f sempre

104

Var. 13

109

V1 *pizz.*

V2 *pizz. ff*

Vla *pizz. ff*

Vc. *pizz. ff*

f

col legno battuto

mf

114

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

ff

ff

114

133

V1

V2

Vc.

f *mf* *fp*

mf

139

Var. 16

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

fp *mf* *mf* *mf*

mf

mp

Var. 17
Allegretto energico $\text{♩} = 76$

146

V1 *f* *p* *mf*

V2 *f* *p* *mf*

Vla *f* *p* *mf*

Vc. *f* *p* *mf*

con Ped.

153

V1

V2

Vla

Vc.

VI 164 *sempre tutta forza*

V2 164 *sempre tutta forza*

Vla 164 *sempre tutta forza*

Vc. 164 *sempre tutta forza*

VI 167 *ppp* (enter imperceptibly)

V2 167 *ppp* (enter imperceptibly)

Vla 167 *ppp* (enter imperceptibly)

Vc. 167 *ppp* (enter imperceptibly)

167 *fff* 10 10 10 *fff* 10 10 10

8vb *8vb* *8vb*

