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Title

Actias

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CHRISTOPHER DIETZ

ACTIAS
for violin and cello

ACTIAS (2018)
for violin and cello

Approximate total duration: 16 minutes

Performance notes:

- **Grace notes** should be played before the rhythmic position of the note to which they are attached.
- **Accidentals** carry throughout the measure in the register in which they appear.

Program note:

Actias depicts the interactions between two dancers whose strong attraction is ultimately the cause one another's demise. It was conceived as a purely instrumental piece although it may be used to accompany live dance or film as well. The work's title comes from a genus of large moths that include the Asian and American moon moths (the Luna moth being a representative North American species). After emerging from their cocoons, females release pheromones which can be detected by males over a distance of miles. Mating typically occurs after midnight followed immediately by egg-laying, after which, they die.

Actias

for the HILO Duo
Caroline Chin & Brian Snow

Christopher Dietz

Violin *Clear, flowing* ♩ = c. 48 *
p < *f* full but not harsh
f non dim.)

Cello *
f full but not harsh
f

*) In sections without meter, rhythmic alignment is approximate with the exception of downbeats, notes connected by a dotted line, or a passage with the indication "sync".

6
p < *mf* > *p* < *mf* > *p* < *f*
f < *p*
f < *p* < *mf* > *p*
f

12
p < *f* > *p* < *p* > *p*
intimate
non cresc.
p
intimate
p non cresc.
p

17

Sync
sul tasto
flautando
sotto voce

mf *pp* *f*

a tempo, heavy ♩ = 40

22

(ord.) sul pont.

sub.*p* non cresc. *f*

Bold ♩ = 72
ord.
espr.

III
IV

sul pont. (l.v.)

(*f*)

28

fp (*p*)

(ord.) graceful

mf *p* *f* *p*

33

sul pont.

p

fp

a tempo (♩ = 72)

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

(ord.) → sul pont.

ord. *espr.* *f*

(LH pizz.)

37 (sul pont.)

(ord.)

(♩ = c. 72)

a tempo (♩ = 72)

fp *f* *p* *f*

42

meno mosso ♩ = 63 *allargando*

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

(ord.) → sul pont.

(pont.) → ord.

f *p* *f*

46 *a tempo* (♩ = 63) *accel.* ♩ = 72 *rit.* ♩ = 63

sul pont. (ord.)

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

strong *f* *p non cresc.*

52 *accel.* ♩ = 72 *rit.* ♩ = 63

sul pont. (ord.)

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

58 *rit.* ♩ = 63 *accel.* ♩ = 72

espr. *mf* *f* *p* *f* *(f)* *non dim.* *sub.p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

espr. *p* *f*

♩ = 84 rit. ♩ = 63 accel.

63

f *strong* *o* *f*

♩ = 84 rit.

68

♩ = 72 accel. ♩ = 84 rit.

73

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

f non dim. *ff*

♩ = 63 *accel.*

Swift ♩ = 96

77

pp

p

f

82

p

(LH pizz.)

(arco) *simmering*

p

p

88

pp

p

mp

mf

f

f

(*p*)

mp

mf

f

p

95

95

p

pizz.

p

arco

(p)

f > p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 95 through 101. The top staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a series of eighth-note chords. A fermata is placed over the first measure. The bottom staff is in bass clef. It starts with a whole rest, followed by a pizzicato (*pizz.*) chord in the second measure, marked *p*. The piece then transitions to an arco section, with the bottom staff playing eighth-note chords starting in measure 7, marked *(p)*. The system concludes with a dynamic shift from *f* to *p* in measure 10.

102

102

(p)

p

mp

mf

f

pp

p

mp

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 102 through 107. The top staff is in treble clef. Measure 102 has a fermata and is marked *(p)*. The time signature changes to 2/4 in measure 103, then to 7/16 in measure 104. Dynamics in the top staff are *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The bottom staff is in bass clef. It features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics in the bottom staff are *pp*, *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the bottom staff in measure 102.

108

108

ff

p

ff

f

ff

p

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 108 through 114. The top staff is in treble clef. Measure 108 starts with a fermata and is marked *ff*. The time signature changes to 2/4 in measure 109, then to 7/16 in measure 113. Dynamics in the top staff are *ff*, *p*, and *ff*. The bottom staff is in bass clef. It features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics in the bottom staff are *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *ff*. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the bottom staff in measure 108.

114

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

sub.p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

120

p *ff*

pizz. *I III* *p*

126

pp *pp*

pizz. *with fingernail* *pp*

pizz. *with fingernail* *pp*

132

ord. prickly *p* *sub.f* *p*

ord. *p* *f*

(gliss. rapidly, do not re-attack)

138

p

prickly

143

149

(very slight upward bend)

fingernail

ord. +

mf

pp

p

fingernail

ord.

pp

p

155

fingernail

ord. +

pp

sub f

p

pp

fingernail

ord.

pp

p

pp

162

sub *f*

mf \Rightarrow *pp*

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 162 to 166. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 3/4 time. Measure 162 starts with a treble staff containing eighth notes and a bass staff with a whole rest. Measure 163 has a treble staff with a whole rest and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 164 has a treble staff with a whole rest and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 165 has a treble staff with a whole rest and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 166 has a treble staff with a whole rest and a bass staff with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *sub f* in the treble, *mf* and *pp* in the bass, and *p* in the bass.

170

p

ff

arco
crazed

striving

(bend upward)

p \Rightarrow *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 170 to 174. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 3/4 time. Measure 170 has a treble staff with a whole rest and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 171 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 172 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 173 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 174 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *p* in the bass, *ff* in the bass, *p* and *f* in the bass, and *arco crazed* in the treble. Performance instructions include 'striving' with a dashed line and '(bend upward)' with an upward-pointing arrow.

177

accel.

arco
crazed

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 177 to 181. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 2/4 time. Measure 177 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 178 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 179 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 180 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 181 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* in the bass. Performance instructions include 'accel.' with a dashed line and 'arco crazed' in the treble.

(accel.) (Wild ♩ = 104) ----- ♩ = 112

subito tempo ♩ = 72 accel. ----- ♩ = 96

allargando -----

(allarg.)

Thick $\text{♩} = c. 54$

Musical score for measures 200-203. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as *allarg.* and the pulse is *Thick* with a quarter note equal to approximately 54 beats. The music consists of two staves, treble and bass. Measure 200 begins with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a similar triplet. A dynamic marking of *f* is present. Measure 201 continues with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a single eighth note in the bass. Measure 202 features a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a single eighth note. Measure 203 concludes with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a single eighth note. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat signs. Performance markings include *espr.* and *f*.

Musical score for measures 204-206. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as *allarg.*. The music consists of two staves, treble and bass. Measure 204 begins with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a similar triplet. A dynamic marking of *f* is present. Measure 205 continues with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a single eighth note. Measure 206 concludes with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a single eighth note. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat signs. Performance markings include *Sync*, *non dim.*, *p non cresc.*, *mf*, *f*, and *p*.

Musical score for measures 207-209. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as *Tempo primo* and the pulse is *♩ = c. 48*. The music consists of two staves, treble and bass. Measure 207 begins with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a similar triplet. A dynamic marking of *p* is present. Measure 208 continues with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a single eighth note. Measure 209 concludes with a treble staff containing a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with a single eighth note. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat signs. Performance markings include *f*, *f*, *p*, and *(fall off note)*.

210

Sync

sul tasto + (arco)

sotto voce

f *p* *f* *pp*

sul pont.

sotto voce

213

a tempo (♩ = 48)

sul pont. sul tasto

(ord.) *espr.*

piu mosso ♩ = 63

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

(sul pont.) sul tasto

(ord.) *lightly*

pp *p* *mf* *p*

221

moving forward ♩ = 72

II *stern*

mf non dim. *f* *p*

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

226

fp *f* *p* *ff* *rit.*

sul pont. ----- ord. heavy

espr. *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *heavy* *ff*

231 (rit.) ----- a tempo ♩ = 48

III *murmuring* (ord.) senza vib. *mf* *p*

IV *murmuring* (ord.) senza vib. *mf* *p*

non dim. *sub.p* *non cresc.*

sul tasto *murmuring*

sul tasto *murmuring*

Steady, austere ♩ = 40

flautando

236 con sord. * *p*

flautando con sord. * *p*

*) Emphasize last 16th-note of beat where applicable.

242

3

pizz.

delicately

3

247

ord.

3

mf

pp

flautando

ord.

arco

ord.

3

mf

pizz.

pp

252

3

3

mf

p

III

IV

arco

3

III

IV

pizz.

I arco

II

pizz.

arco

(arco)

mf

p

256

II
III

espr.

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

pizz. *arco* *pizz.*

mf *p non cresc.* *mf*

260

dolce

mf *f* *p* *f* *p* *3 non cresc.* *(p)*

sul pont. *(ord.)*

sul pont. *arco* *p* *f* *3* *p* *f*

265

molto rit. *a tempo flautando* *subito tempo* ♩ = 126
over-pressure,
cracking

f *p* *pp* *ff*

(ord.) *senza sord.* *pizz.* *arco* *(ord.)* *sul pont.*

(f) *p* *pp* *ff*

270

(sul pont.)
rough, dangerous

274

(sul pont.)

278

(sul pont.)

282

(sul pont.)

senza sord.
spiccato, crisp

sub.p

286

elastic

f

p

elastic

f

p

elastic

f non dim.

292

p

p

296

(on the string)

ff

(on the string)

ff

300

p

f

p

f

rit.

305 (rit.) **Careening forward** $\text{♩} = 48$ accel. $(\text{♩} = 72)$

IV

311 (accel.) **Frantic** $\text{♩} = 104$

317 rit. **Mired** $\text{♩} = 63$ accel.

(accel.) ----- ♩ = 96

Stark
(tempo primo) ♩ = c. 48

322

molto espr.
non dim.

Sync

326

p *mf* *p* *(p)* *ff* *ord.* *sul pont.* *molto vib.* *ord.* *ff* *non dim.* *ff*

p *p* *ff p* *ff* *ord.* *pont.* *ord.* *over-pressure, cracking* *(ff) p* *ff*

a tempo ♩ = 72

330

(sync) *still* *pp* *(pp)* *ff* *pizz.* *arco sul tasto con sord. flautando* *pp* *(ord.) graceful* *p*

still *pp* *pont.* *ord. con sord.* *ff*

336 $\text{♩} = c. 72$
sul pont.
harsh

senza sord. *ff*

interrupting *ff*

(ord.)
mean vib. *f* *p* *ff*

senza sord. *p* *timid*

pizz. *ff*

arco
aggressive

unsure *p*

pizz. *non cresc.*

341 **creeping forward**
 $\text{♩} = 63$ accel. $\text{♩} = 96$

pizz. *pp*

p

349

tapping on wood with LH fingertips (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, etc.)

(p)

354

(gliss.)

sub *f* *p* *f* *p*

tapping on wood with
LH fingertips (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, etc.)

(*p*)

(gliss.)

sub *f* *p* *f* *p*

359

subito tempo
♩ = 72 accel. -----

arco

f *p* *sub f* *fp*

(approximate progress
of strummed glissando)

f *sub f* (*f*)

Emphatic ♩ = 96
(II)

365

f *fp* *f*

arco

(*f*)

370

fp *f*

376

molto rit. *a tempo* ♩ = 96

(non accel.)

ff *fp* *ff*

382

sub p *mp* *mf*

ff *mp* *mf*

387

Musical score for measures 387-392. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 5/16 to 7/16, then 5/16, 7/16, 6/16, 2/4, and finally 7/16. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *ff*. The Treble staff starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ends with fortissimo (*ff*). The Bass staff starts with *sub.ppp* and ends with *ff*. There are accents (>) and slurs throughout the piece.

393

Musical score for measures 393-397. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 7/16 to 3/4, then 2/4, 3/4, and 2/4. The Treble staff features a complex melodic line with many slurs and accents. The Bass staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and accents.

398

Musical score for measures 398-403. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 5/16, then 2/4, and finally 2/4. The Treble staff starts with a *non dim.* marking and includes an *allargando* instruction with a dashed line. The Bass staff also includes a *non dim.* marking. There are many slurs and accents throughout the piece.

(allarg.)-----Pleading ♩ = 48

405 *legato, molto tenuto* *f*

rit.-----meno mosso ♩ = 40

409 *with violence*

(a tempo ♩ = 40) *

412 *p* *mf* *pp* *f* *ff* *pp unaccented*

without feeling tap on wood

without feeling + *pizz.* tap on wood *ff* *pp unaccented*

*) Repeat until cello D-A strings have finished ringing. Stop abruptly (no rit.).

