

STEVEN SNOWDEN

HIDDEN MOTHERS

STRING QUARTET

HIDDEN MOTHERS

COMMISSIONED BY ART OF ÉLAN FOR THE KONTRAS QUARTET

1. PAM
2. 연주 (YEON-JOO)
3. LAUREN

APPROXIMATE DURATION: 10 MIN.

Program Notes

Hidden Mother photography was a genre of portraits popular in the Victorian era. Limitations of early camera technology required long exposure times and children were difficult subjects. To help keep them still, their mother would be present, but hidden under a shroud, behind curtains, or even disguised as a chair. While this technique was successful, the resulting images can be considered quite unsettling today.

I think this unique style of photography serves as an interesting metaphor for the role that women have historically had in Western culture. The astounding amount of work and sacrifice required of motherhood forms the very foundation of society. However, their efforts often go unrecognized or intentionally hidden from the public.

With this in mind, I decided to base this piece on three mothers who have had an important role in my life. **Pam** is my own mother. 연주 (**Yeon-Joo**) is my wife's birth mother (she was adopted from South Korea when she was four months old). **Lauren** is my wife, who gave birth to our daughter just a few weeks before I finished composing this piece.

HIDDEN MOTHERS

1. Pam

Impassioned $\text{♩} = 130^*$

STEVEN SNOWDEN

With mute

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

With mute

f Play phrase approx. 8 times in total

f Play phrase approx. 9 times in total

*Tempo should be approximately 130,
but independent of all other players.
(applies to all box notation)

7

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f Play phrase approx. 22 times in total

f Play phrase approx. 8 times in total

1. Pam

13

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 2 more times

Vln. II

Play phrase approx. 8 more times

Vla.

Play phrase approx. 6 more times

Vc.

Play phrase approx. 6 more times

19

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 7 times total

1. Pam

3

27

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 8 times in total

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Play phrase approx. 11 times in total

Play phrase approx. 5 more times

Play phrase approx. 4 more times

37

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

ff

1. Pam

39

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 4 more times

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Play phrase approx. 6 more times

Play phrase approx. 5 more times

p ff

45

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 5 times in total

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p ff

1. Pam

5

51

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 3 more times

Vln. II

Play phrase approx. 7 times in total

Vla.

Play phrase approx. 3.5 more times

Vc.

55

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 8 times in total

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

59 Resolute

1. Pam

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 2.5 more times

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff

62

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

v.

1. Pam

7

65

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 4 more times

Vln. II

Play phrase approx. 4 times in total

Vla.

Vc.

69

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

1. Pam

73

Vln. I

Play phrase approx. 6 times in total

Vln. II

Play phrase approx. 5 times in total

Vla.

Vc.

79

Brittle

Vln. I

mp

Vln. II

mp

Vla.

mp

sul pont

Vc.

mp

sul pont

82

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

3 3 3

3 3

1. Pam

85

Vln. I Remove mute

Vln. II Remove mute

Vla.

Vc.

1. Pam

88

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

90

mp

mp

Measure 88: Vln. I and Vln. II play eighth-note rests. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Measure 90: Vln. I and Vln. II play sustained notes with grace notes above them. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Dynamics: *mp* for Vln. I and Vln. II.

91

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Measure 91: Vln. I and Vln. II play sustained notes with grace notes above them. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Dynamics: *ff* for Vln. I.

94

This musical score excerpt shows four staves for string instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is common time (indicated by 'C'). The first two measures feature sustained notes with grace notes above them. In the third measure, the violins play eighth-note patterns, while the cello and bass provide harmonic support.

97

This musical score excerpt continues with four staves for string instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature changes to A major (indicated by 'A' and a sharp sign). The violins play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The cellos and basses provide harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note patterns.

100

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

This musical score segment begins with a dynamic of 100. It features four staves: Vln. I (top), Vln. II (second from top), Vla. (third from top), and Vc. (bottom). The Vln. I and Vln. II staves both have sustained notes with grace notes above them, indicated by a 'v' symbol. The Vla. staff has a continuous eighth-note pattern with slurs. The Vc. staff has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with slurs. Measures 101 and 102 show similar patterns, followed by a repeat sign and measures 103 and 104.

103

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

This musical score segment begins with a dynamic of 103. It features four staves: Vln. I (top), Vln. II (second from top), Vla. (third from top), and Vc. (bottom). The Vln. I and Vln. II staves both have sustained notes with grace notes above them, indicated by a 'v' symbol. The Vla. staff has a continuous eighth-note pattern with slurs. The Vc. staff has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with slurs. Measures 104 and 105 show similar patterns, followed by a repeat sign and measures 106 and 107.

1. Pam

13

106 | Tenacious

Musical score for strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) showing measures 1-4. The score is in common time. Measure 1: Vln. I plays eighth notes at forte dynamic (ff). Measure 2: Vln. I plays sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 3: Vln. I plays eighth notes. Measure 4: Vln. I plays sixteenth-note patterns. Vln. II is silent in measures 1-2. In measure 3, it plays eighth notes. In measure 4, it plays sixteenth-note patterns. Vla. plays sixteenth-note patterns in measures 1-4. Vc. plays eighth-note patterns in measures 1-4.

109

Musical score for strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Ord., Vc.) showing measures 1-3. The score is in common time. Measure 1: Vln. I plays eighth-note pairs with slurs. Measure 2: Vln. I plays sixteenth-note patterns with slurs. Measure 3: Vln. I plays eighth-note pairs with slurs. Vln. II enters in measure 2 with eighth-note pairs. Vla. enters in measure 2 with eighth-note pairs. Ord. (Double Bass) enters in measure 3 with eighth-note pairs. Vc. (Double Bass) provides harmonic support throughout. Dynamics include *ff* at the beginning.

14

112

1. Pam

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

115

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

1. Pam

15

119

A musical score for string instruments. The page number 15 is in the top right corner. The section title "1. Pam" is centered above the staff. Measure 119 begins with Vln. I playing eighth-note pairs. Vln. II enters with eighth-note pairs. Vla. plays eighth-note pairs, starting with a grace note. Vc. provides harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note pairs. Dynamic markings include >p, ff, and >ff. Measure 120 continues with similar patterns for all four instruments, maintaining the dynamic levels indicated.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hidden Mothers

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

Steven Snowden

Translucent ♩ = 64

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

♩ = 64

pp

p

p

p

p

p

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

III, IV - Harmonic gliss effect

Vln. I 8

p

III, IV - Harmonic gliss effect

Vln. II 8

p

harmonic gliss with circular bowing motion

Vla. 8^{va}

p seagull effect

Vc. mf

II S.T.

ppp

The musical score consists of four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The Vln. I and Vln. II staves show 'Harmonic gliss effect' where the bow moves across multiple strings simultaneously. The Vla. staff shows a 'harmonic gliss with circular bowing motion' where the bow moves in a circular path across several strings. The Vc. staff shows a 'seagull effect' with a bowing pattern that creates a descending glissando effect. The score includes dynamic markings like *p*, mf, and ppp, and performance instructions like 'II S.T.'.

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

3

10

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

4

4

4

4

pp

12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

pp

8

S.P. → N S.P. 5

mp

f

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

18

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (8) III - Harmonic gliss effect

S.P.

Vc. mp

mp f

20

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. ♭

harmonic gliss with circular bowing motion

Vc. N p

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

5

22

24

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ppp mp

ppp mp

Lyrical
4
ppp p pp mp

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ppp p

ppp p

p

8

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

12

16

ppp *mp*

ppp *mp*

37 Gradually building intensity

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

6

6

6

6

ppp

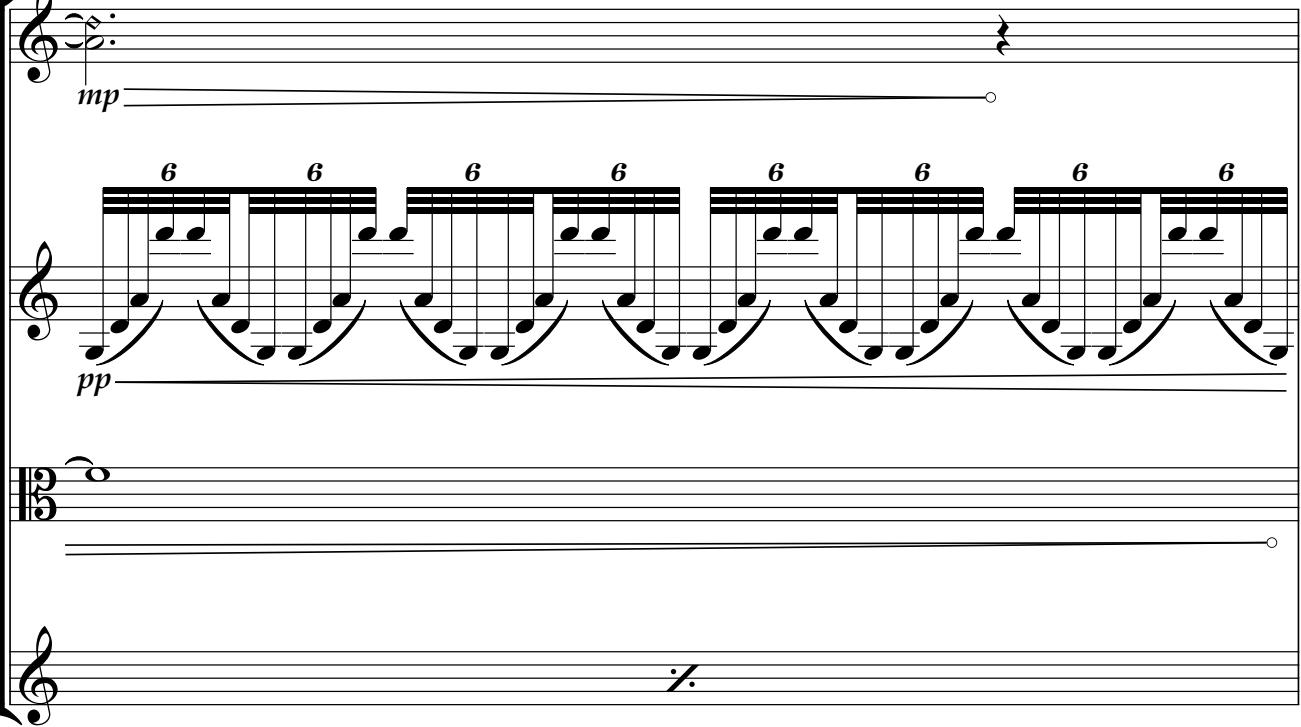
pp *mp*

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

7

38

Vln. I



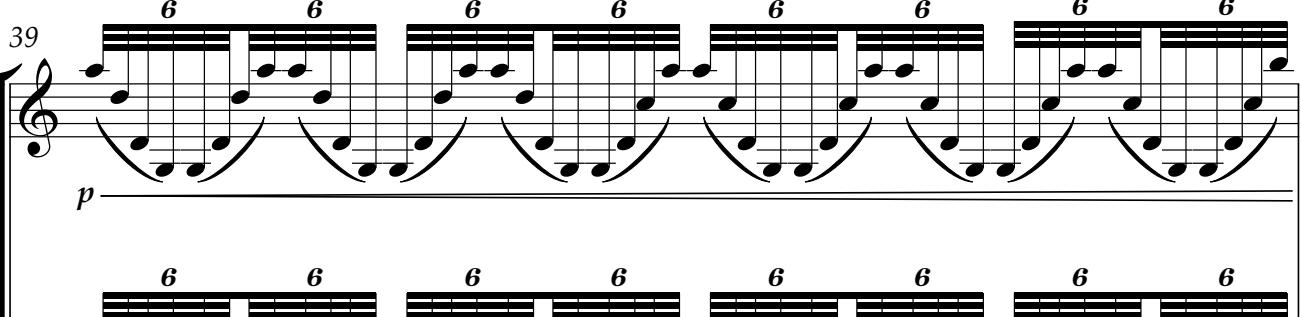
Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

39

Vln. I



Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

40

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

20

mp

41

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

mf

S.P.

Boiling over

42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

43

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

44

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

S.T.

→

45

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

S.P.

Vc.

mf

2.연주 (Yeon-Joo)

11

46

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

S.T.

47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

S.P.

48 Glimmering

2. 연주 (Yeon-Joo)

50

The musical score consists of four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature changes from G major (no sharps or flats) to A major (one sharp) at the beginning of the section. Measure 50 starts with a half note in G major. Measures 51-52 show various notes and rests in G major. Measures 53-54 begin in A major, indicated by a key signature of one sharp. Measure 53 features sustained notes with grace marks. Measures 54-55 continue in A major, with measure 55 concluding with sustained notes. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo) in measures 54 and 55, and *8va* (octave up) in measure 53. Articulation marks like dots and dashes are present on several notes.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hidden Mothers

Steven Snowden

3. Lauren

Recording plays for 30 sec.

Heartbeat begins

Musical score for the first section of "Lauren". The score consists of four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The time signature changes from common time to 6/8 at the beginning of the section. The first measure (common time) has rests. The second measure (6/8) starts with a G major chord. Subsequent measures show a repeating pattern of eighth-note pairs (x-y) and sixteenth-note pairs (x-y-x-y), indicating a continuous heartbeat pattern. The violins play mostly eighth-note pairs, while the cello and viola play sixteenth-note pairs.

Musical score for the continuation of "Lauren". The score consists of four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The key signature changes to 6/8. The first measure shows a repeating pattern of eighth-note pairs (x-y) and sixteenth-note pairs (x-y-x-y). The second measure shows a repeating pattern of eighth-note pairs (x-y-x-y). The third measure shows a repeating pattern of eighth-note pairs (x-y-x-y). The fourth measure shows a repeating pattern of eighth-note pairs (x-y-x-y).

10 With Anticipation $\text{♩} = 142$

This musical score page shows four staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The key signature is common time (indicated by a 'C'). Measure 10 begins with eighth-note patterns on the violins and viola, followed by eighth-note patterns on the cellos. The dynamic is *f*. Measure 11 starts with eighth-note patterns on the violins and viola, followed by eighth-note patterns on the cellos. The dynamic changes to *f* for the violins and *p* for the cellos. Measure 12 starts with eighth-note patterns on the violins and viola, followed by eighth-note patterns on the cellos. The dynamic changes to *f* for the violins and *p* for the cellos. Measure 13 starts with eighth-note patterns on the violins and viola, followed by eighth-note patterns on the cellos. The dynamic is *f*.

19

This musical score page shows four staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The key signature is common time (indicated by a 'C'). Measure 19 begins with eighth-note patterns on the violins and viola, followed by eighth-note patterns on the cellos. The dynamic is *pp*. Measure 20 starts with eighth-note patterns on the violins and viola, followed by eighth-note patterns on the cellos. The dynamic is *pp*.

23

A musical score for four string instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The score is in common time. Measure 23 begins with a dynamic of \textcircled{p} . Violin 1 has a sustained note. Violin 2 plays eighth-note pairs. The Viola and Cello provide harmonic support with sustained notes. The dynamic changes to *mp* in the next measure.

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

27

A continuation of the musical score from measure 23. Measure 27 begins with a dynamic of \textcircled{p} . The instrumentation remains the same: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The Viola and Cello continue their harmonic function. The dynamic changes to *pp* in the next measure.

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

3. Lauren

34

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

mp

pizz.

mp

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

ppp

39

A musical score for four string instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 1: Violin 1 has a single note on the first line. Measures 2-4: Violin 2 plays eighth-note patterns (e.g., quarter note followed by sixteenth notes). Viola plays eighth-note patterns (e.g., quarter note followed by sixteenth notes). Cello plays sustained notes with wavy horizontal lines above them. Measure 5: Violin 1 rests. Measures 6-8: Violin 2 continues its eighth-note patterns. Viola continues its eighth-note patterns. Cello continues its sustained notes with wavy lines.

43

A musical score for four string instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 1: Violin 1 rests. Measures 2-4: Violin 2 plays eighth-note patterns. Viola plays eighth-note patterns. Cello plays sustained notes with wavy horizontal lines above them. Measure 5: Violin 1 rests. Measures 6-8: Violin 2 continues its eighth-note patterns. Viola continues its eighth-note patterns. Cello plays sustained notes with wavy horizontal lines above them, and the word "arco" is written above the first note of the second measure.

3. Lauren

47

Violin 1: Treble clef, dynamic **p**. Notes: open circle, open circle, open circle, dash.

Violin 2: Treble clef. Notes: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note.

Viola: Bass clef. Notes: dotted half note, dotted half note.

Cello: Bass clef. Notes: open circle, open circle, open circle, dash. Dynamic **ppp**.

pizz. (pizzicato) indicated for Cello.

51

Violin 1: Treble clef. Notes: dash, dash, dash, dash.

Violin 2: Treble clef. Notes: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note.

Viola: Bass clef. Notes: dotted half note, dotted half note.

Cello: Bass clef. Notes: quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, dynamic **f**, sustained notes.

55

This musical score excerpt shows four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The Violin 1 staff begins with a rest, followed by two more rests. Then it plays a dynamic ***p*** (pianissimo) sustained over two measures. The Violin 2 staff consists of eighth-note patterns. The Viola staff has continuous eighth-note patterns. The Cello staff features sustained notes with slurs.

59

This musical score excerpt continues from the previous one. The Violin 1 staff starts with a dynamic ***p*** (pianissimo) sustained over two measures. The Violin 2 staff has eighth-note patterns. The Viola staff has continuous eighth-note patterns. The Cello staff has sustained notes with slurs.

3. Lauren

63

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

67

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

71

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

75

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

pp

mp

Detailed description: This musical score page shows four staves for string instruments. Violin 1 and Cello play eighth-note patterns. Violin 2 and Viola play sustained notes with grace notes. The dynamic level changes from **pp** to **mp** at the beginning of the second measure.

80 Earnest, Passionate

79

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

mp

mp

Detailed description: This musical score page shows four staves for string instruments. Violin 1 and Cello play eighth-note patterns. Violin 2 and Viola play sustained notes with grace notes. The dynamic level changes from **mp** to **mp** at the beginning of the second measure. Measure 80 is labeled "Earnest, Passionate".

83

This musical score page shows four staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The Violin 1 staff consists of eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note of each pair. The Violin 2 staff features eighth-note pairs with slurs and grace notes. The Viola staff has eighth-note pairs with slurs. The Cello staff consists of sustained notes with slurs.

87

This musical score page shows four staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The Violin 1 staff consists of eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note of each pair. The Violin 2 staff features eighth-note pairs with slurs and grace notes. The Viola staff has eighth-note pairs with slurs. The Cello staff consists of sustained notes with slurs.

Musical score for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello) showing measures 91-95. The score is in common time, treble clef, and includes dynamic markings *mf* and *mp*. Measure 91: Violin 1 plays eighth-note pairs, Violin 2 and Viola play eighth notes, Cello plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 92: Violin 1 plays sixteenth-note patterns, Violin 2 and Viola play eighth notes, Cello plays eighth-note pairs. Measures 93-94: Violin 1 and Viola play eighth-note pairs, Violin 2 and Cello play eighth notes. Measure 95: Violin 1 and Viola play eighth-note pairs, Violin 2 and Cello play eighth notes.

95

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

3. Lauren

98

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

8va

f

f

mf

101 (8)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

104**Enraptured, Soaring** $\text{♩} = 110$

Musical score for measures 104-105. The score consists of four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. Measure 104 starts with a dynamic ***ff***. The violins play eighth-note pairs, while the viola and cello provide harmonic support. Measure 105 begins with a dynamic ***ff***, continuing the eighth-note pairs from the violins.

106**(8)**

Musical score for measures 106-107. The score consists of four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. Measure 106 features eighth-note pairs from the violins. Measure 107 begins with a dynamic ***ff***, maintaining the eighth-note pairs from the violins.

Musical score for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello) at measure 108. The tempo is 108. The violins play eighth-note pairs, the viola plays eighth-note pairs, and the cello plays eighth notes. Measure 108 ends with a fermata over the last note of the violins.

Musical score for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello) at measure 110. The tempo is 110. The violins play eighth-note pairs, the viola plays eighth-note pairs, and the cello plays eighth notes. Measure 110 ends with a fermata over the last note of the violins.

112

(8)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Measure 112: Violin 1 and 2 play eighth notes. Measure 113: Violin 1 and 2 play eighth notes with dynamic '8va'. Viola and Cello play eighth-note patterns.

114

(8)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Measure 114: Violin 1 and 2 play eighth notes. Measure 115: Violin 1 and 2 play eighth notes with dynamic '(8)'. Viola and Cello play eighth-note patterns.

116 (8)

This musical score excerpt shows four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The tempo is 116 BPM. The Violin 1 staff is mostly blank. The Violin 2 staff has a single note. The Viola staff features eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings '8va' and '8va'. The Cello staff consists of eighth-note chords.

118 (8)

This musical score excerpt shows four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. The tempo is 118 BPM. The Violin 1 staff has a single note. The Violin 2 staff has a note with a sharp sign. The Viola staff features eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings '>'. The Cello staff consists of eighth-note chords.

120 (8)

Violin 1

Violin 2 (8) *ff*

Viola (8) *8va ff*

Cello *p*

122 (8)

Violin 1

Violin 2 (8)

Viola (8)

Cello *f*

Musical score for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello) showing measures 124-125. The score is divided into two systems by a vertical dashed line. Measure 124 starts with a dynamic of ff . The violins play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The viola plays sixteenth-note patterns with grace notes. The cello provides harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Measure 125 continues the pattern, with the violins and viola maintaining their eighth-note and sixteenth-note figures respectively, while the cello's rhythmic patterns continue.

Violin 1

126

(8) >

fff

Violin 2

(8) >

fff

Viola

(8) >

fff

Cello

fff