

to Heather, Imogen, and Georgia

trio

flute, viola, harp

c. 15'

written for Trio Farben

March 2025

Darius Paymai

Notes for performance

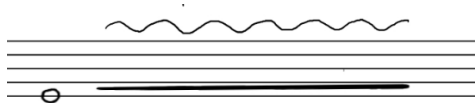
The piece often uses a mix of durations (in seconds), spatial notation, and traditional metered notation. Unless there is a clear rhythmic or otherwise stated correlation between two or more parts, the relationships between instruments can be loose and precise vertical alignment of parts is not necessary.

Audio playback

Audio is played back via one or more mobile phone speakers with tracks provided by the composer.

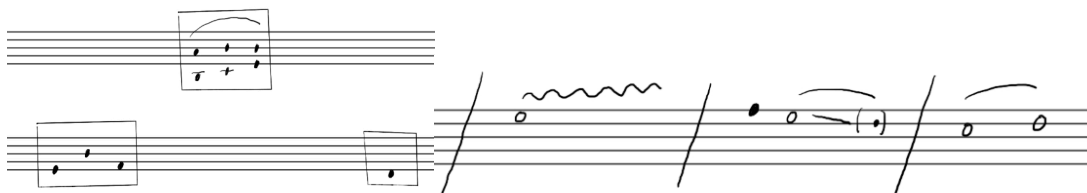
Specific techniques and notation

The oscillating line indicates a wide, slow vibrato. In the flute, this corresponds to a lip bend of no more than a quarter tone in either direction from the notated pitch.

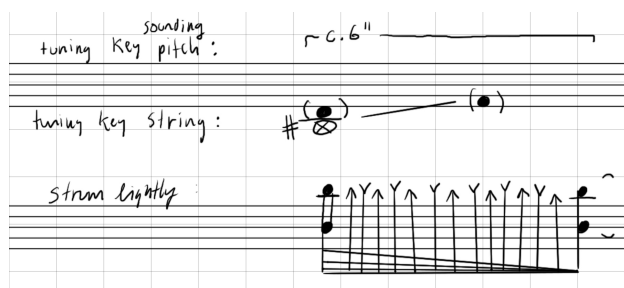


A thick horizontal line indicates the duration of a sound in non-metered contexts.

Both boxes and forward slashes indicate material which can be played in any order or combination, including (immediate) repetition of a cell. There is always a short pause before moving on to the next chosen cell.



On the final page, the harpist uses a metal tuning key to achieve a sliding tone on a specific string, notated as such:



A downward arrow on an accidental indicates flattening by no more than a quarter tone. A sixth tone (~33 cents) is the aim but not necessary. The flautist should find a suitably stable fingering.



Programme note

trio was developed with Trio Farben over the last few months and traces the history of this period through a kind of collage. I became interested in multiplicity and the layering of individual parts, and, after much time spent finding and collecting sounds, the process of completing the piece became one of the removal of material.

I am grateful to Imogen, Georgia, and Heather for asking me to write them this piece and for all their help along the way.

trio

Darius Paymen

for Trio Farben

one system = c.20"

fl

pppp

vla

pppp

fl

slow lip bend

vla

fl

vla

2

fl

vla

hp

fl

vla

hp

(w/harp)

(independent)

(w/flute)

fl

vla

hp

fl

vla

hp

4

fl (independent) c. 4" c. 6" c. 4" c. 5"

pizz. lv always

♩ = 58-60

hp (independent) c. 6" c. 5" c. 6"

pppp

ppp

IV III

IV III

G₁ → G₂

fl

vla

hp

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring three staves: *fl* (flute), *vla* (viola), and *hp* (harp).

The *fl* staff begins with a repeat sign, followed by a whole rest labeled *c. 4"*. This is followed by a half note G4 with a downward bowing hairpin and the marking *pppp*, labeled *c. 6"*. After another whole rest labeled *c. 4"*, there is a half note G4, followed by a slur over a series of eighth notes (A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4) labeled *c. 5"*. The staff concludes with a repeat sign and a long right-pointing arrow.

The *vla* staff starts with a repeat sign, followed by a dotted half rest. It then contains a sequence of eighth notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, and F3. The first note has a *p* marking. The last four notes are each marked with a *x* and a slur above them.

The *hp* staff consists of two empty staves.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring three staves: *fl* (flute), *vla* (viola), and *hp* (harp).

The *fl* staff contains a single whole note G4 with a fermata above it.

The *vla* staff begins with a repeat sign, followed by a sequence of eighth notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, and C4. Each of these notes is marked with a *x* and a slur above it. The staff ends with a repeat sign, followed by a dotted half rest with a fermata above it.

The *hp* staff consists of two empty staves.

6

$\text{♩} = c.82$. hazy, but with movement

flute

Fl. *pppp*

Vla.

Hp. *pp* murky

Fl.

Vla.

Hp. bring out grace note melodies

Fl.

Vla

Hp.

legato where possible

Fl.

ppp lightly fluctuating

approx.
arco $\frac{1}{2}$ wood $\frac{1}{2}$ hair, explore shades

Vla

generally pp, swell with glissandi

Hp.

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

First system of music (Measures 1-4). The Flute (Fl.) part features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola (Vla.) part consists of a sustained chord with a tremolo effect. The Harp (Hp.) part features a sequence of chords in the left hand, with a melodic line in the right hand starting in measure 3.

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

I.v. always

p

Second system of music (Measures 5-8). The Flute (Fl.) part continues the melodic line. The Viola (Vla.) part consists of a sustained chord with a tremolo effect. The Harp (Hp.) part continues the chordal sequence in the left hand and the melodic line in the right hand. The instruction "I.v. always" is written above the right hand of the harp, and "p" is written below the left hand in measure 5.

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

This system contains measures 1 through 4 of the piece. The Flute (Fl.) part begins in measure 1 with a half note G4, followed by a whole rest in measure 2. In measure 3, it plays a half note A4, and in measure 4, it plays a half note B4. The Viola (Vla.) part has a whole rest in measure 1, followed by a half note G3 in measure 2, which is sustained through measures 3 and 4. The Harp (Hp.) part consists of two staves. The right hand starts with a half note G2 in measure 1, followed by a half note A2 in measure 2, and then rests in measures 3 and 4. The left hand plays a half note G2 in measure 1, followed by a half note A2 in measure 2, and then rests in measures 3 and 4.

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

This system contains measures 5 through 8 of the piece. The Flute (Fl.) part has whole rests in measures 5, 6, 7, and 8. The Viola (Vla.) part has a half note G3 in measure 5, which is sustained through measures 6 and 7, and then a half note A3 in measure 8. The Harp (Hp.) part consists of two staves. The right hand plays a half note G2 in measure 5, followed by a half note A2 in measure 6, and then rests in measures 7 and 8. The left hand plays a half note G2 in measure 5, followed by a half note A2 in measure 6, and then rests in measures 7 and 8.

Fl. *ppp*

Vla.

Hp.

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

Fl.

Vla

Hp.

G# → Gb

Fl.

Vla

Hp.

12

Fl.

Vla

Hp.

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Viola (Vla), and Harp (Hp.). The Flute part is in the treble clef and has a single whole rest. The Viola part is in the alto clef and has a whole note chord consisting of two notes, with a crescendo hairpin. The Harp part is in the bass clef and has a series of eighth notes and rests.

Fl.

Vla

Hp.

10" - 15"

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Viola (Vla), and Harp (Hp.). The Flute part is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Viola part is written on a single staff with an alto clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Harp part is written on two staves, both with bass clefs and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). A bracket above the Flute and Viola staves indicates a duration of 10" - 15". The Flute part consists of a single note (B-flat) held for the duration. The Viola part consists of two measures, each with a whole note (B-flat) and a half note (B-flat). The Harp part consists of two measures, each with a whole note (B-flat) and a half note (B-flat).

$\bullet = 76$, quite formal

Fl.

Vla

Hp.

$\frac{1}{2}$ hair → all hair

pp

p

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Viola (Vla.), and Harp (Hp.). The Flute part consists of five measures, each containing a whole rest. The Viola part also consists of five measures. The first measure has a whole note marked 'pp' (pianissimo). The second measure has a whole note marked 'pp' with a hairpin crescendo line leading to the third measure. The third measure has a whole note marked 'pp' with a hairpin crescendo line leading to the fourth measure. The fourth measure has a whole note marked 'pp' with a hairpin crescendo line leading to the fifth measure. The fifth measure has a whole note marked 'pp' with a hairpin crescendo line leading to the end of the staff. The Harp part consists of five measures. The first measure has a whole rest. The second measure has a whole rest. The third measure has a whole rest. The fourth measure has a whole rest. The fifth measure has a whole rest. The Harp part also includes a series of six vertical strokes (pedals) in the first measure, marked with a 'p' (piano) dynamic.

Hp.

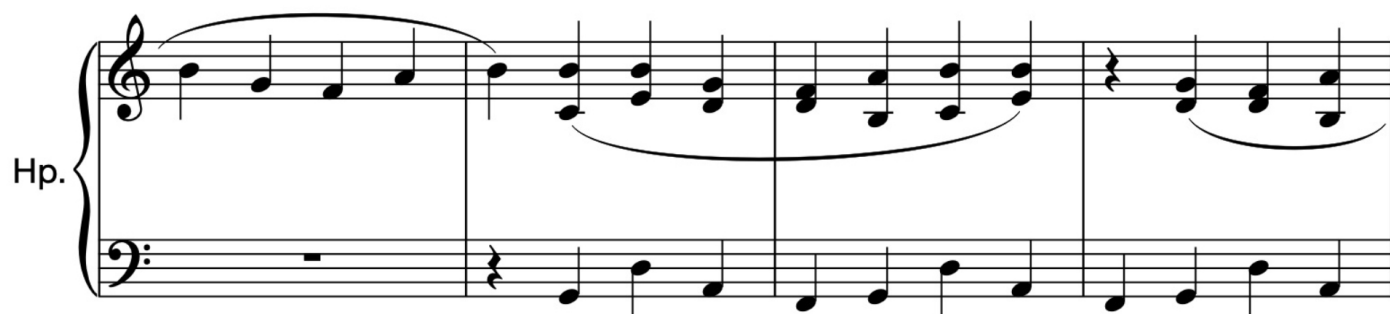
p

dampen for clarity

Hp.

The harp part is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody in the treble clef consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with some notes tied across measures. The bass clef part provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

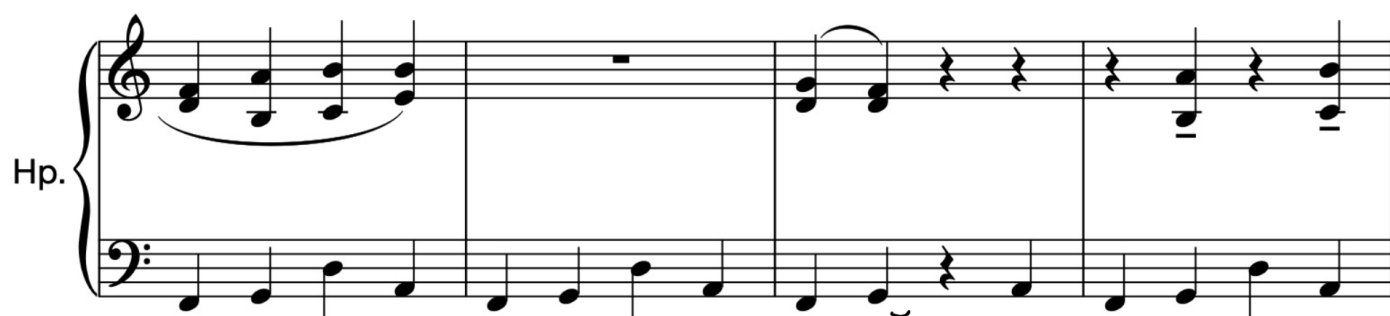
Hp.



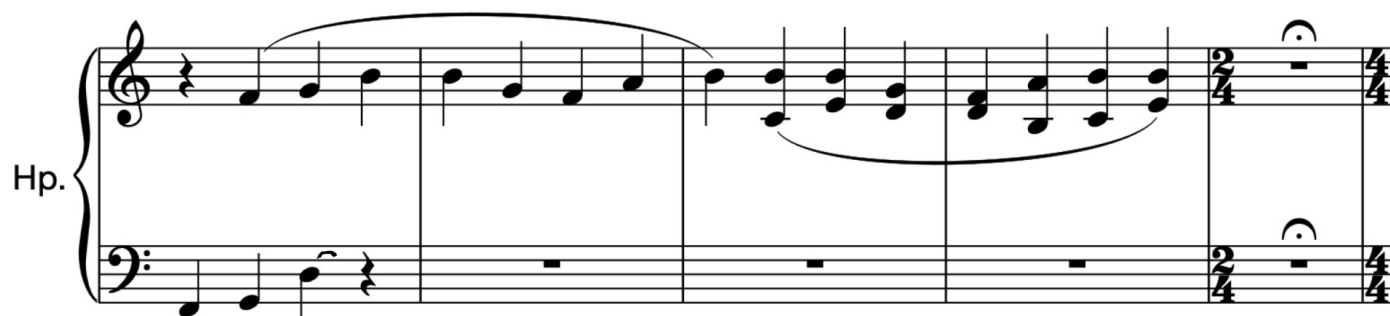
Hp.



Hp.



Hp.



very light and sweet

Fl.

p

Vla.

p

Hp.

The first system of music spans measures 1 to 3. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts are identical, featuring a melody of sixteenth-note triplets. The Flute part is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, while the Viola part is in alto clef with a 3/4 time signature. Both parts are marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the instruction 'very light and sweet'. The Harp (Hp.) part consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

The second system of music spans measures 4 to 6. It continues the musical themes established in the first system. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts continue their sixteenth-note triplet melody. The Harp (Hp.) part continues its harmonic accompaniment across the two staves.

Fl. Vla. Hp.

The first system of the musical score covers measures 1 through 3. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts are written in treble and alto clefs, respectively, and both feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and accents. The Harp (Hp.) part is written in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and is mostly silent, with a few notes in the first measure.

Fl. Vla. Hp.

The second system of the musical score covers measures 4 through 6. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts continue the rhythmic pattern. The Harp (Hp.) part has more activity, including a long slur in the right hand.

Fl. Vla. Hp.

This musical system contains measures 1 through 4. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts are in 3/8 time and play a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note triplets, with the first two measures followed by rests and the third measure concluding with a quarter rest. The Harp (Hp.) part is in treble and bass clef, featuring a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both connected by a long slur spanning the first three measures.

Fl. Vla. Hp.

This musical system contains measures 5 through 8. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts continue with the same triplet pattern, with measures 5 and 6 followed by rests and measure 7 concluding with a quarter rest. The Harp (Hp.) part continues its melodic and bass lines, with a slur over the first two measures of this system and a quarter rest in the right hand in measure 6.

Fl.

Vla.

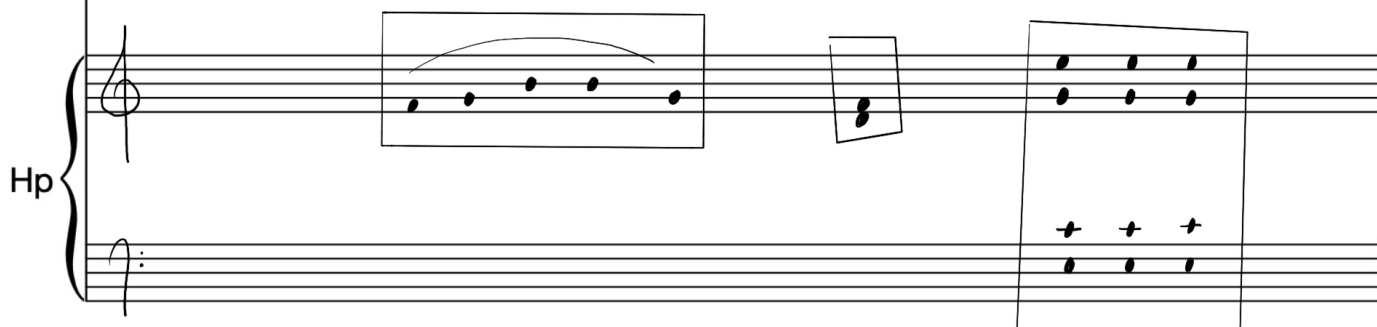
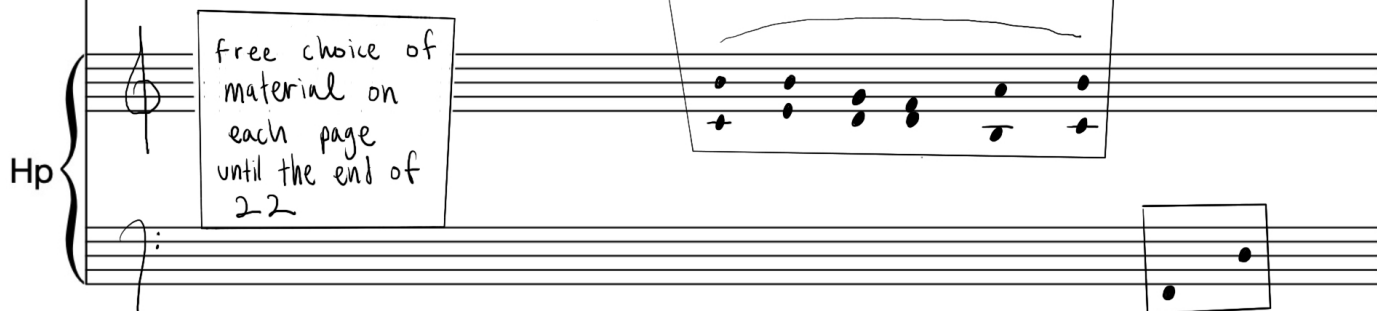
Hp.

This musical score is for measures 18 through 21. The Flute (Fl.) and Viola (Vla.) parts are in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). They play identical sixteenth-note runs in measures 18 and 19, followed by rests in measures 20 and 21. The Harp (Hp.) part consists of two staves. In measure 18, the right hand plays a pair of beamed eighth notes (F4 and G4) and the left hand plays a pair of beamed eighth notes (D3 and E3). In measure 19, the right hand plays a whole note (F4) and the left hand plays a whole note (D3). In measure 20, the right hand plays a quarter note (F4), an eighth note (G4), and a quarter note (A4), while the left hand plays a quarter note (D3), an eighth note (E3), and a quarter note (F3). In measure 21, the right hand plays a quarter note (F4), an eighth note (G4), and a quarter note (A4), while the left hand plays a quarter note (D3), an eighth note (E3), and a quarter note (F3).

independently choose 8 of 10 trills to play on this page



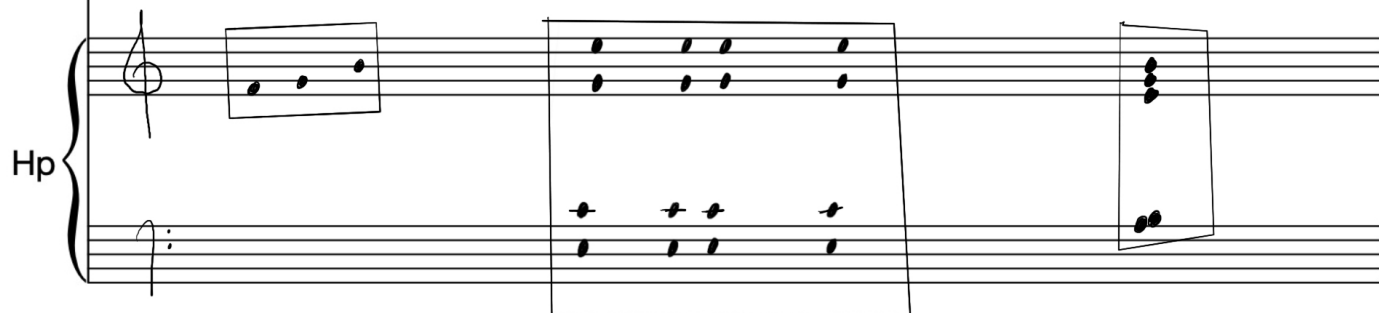
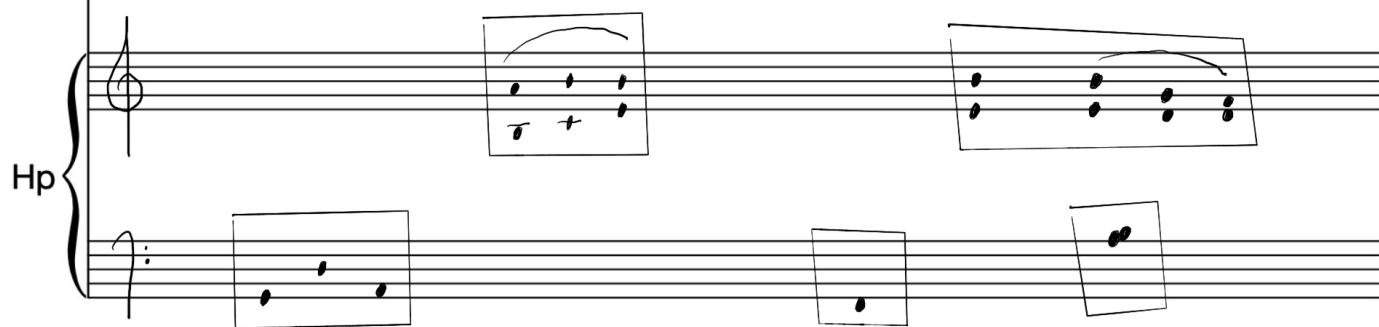
independently choose 7 of 10 trills to play on this page



independently choose 6 of 10 trills to play on this page



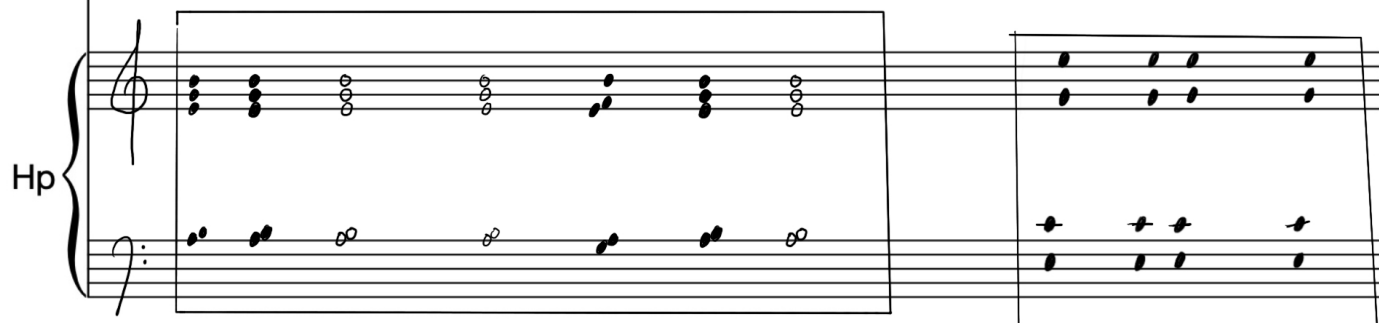
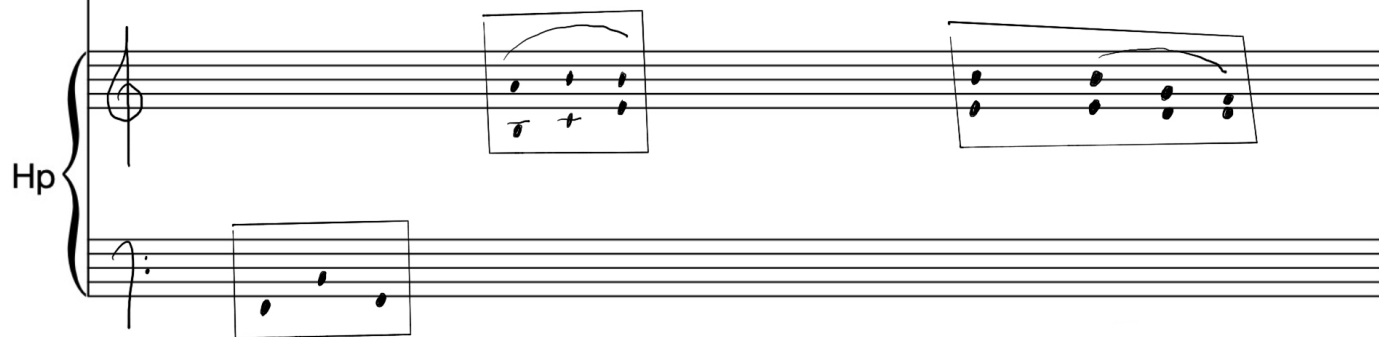
independently choose 4 of 10 trills to play on this page



independently choose 4 of 10 trills to play on this page



independently choose 3 of 10 trills to play on this page



Fl.

Vla

Hp

IV

p

wide slow vibrato

1x maximum

Detailed description: This system contains measures 22, 23, and 24. The Flute part has rests in measures 22 and 23, then plays eighth-note runs in measures 24 and 25. The Viola part has a half note in measure 22, a half note with a wide slow vibrato in measure 23, and a half note in measure 24. The Harp part has chords in measures 22 and 23, and a single note in measure 24.

Fl.

Vla

Hp

l.v. into next page

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25, 26, and 27. The Flute part has rests in measures 25 and 26, then plays eighth-note runs in measures 27 and 28. The Viola part has a half note in measure 25, a half note with a wide slow vibrato in measure 26, and a half note in measure 27. The Harp part has chords in measures 25 and 26, and a single note in measure 27.

40" approx.

fl


vla

hp

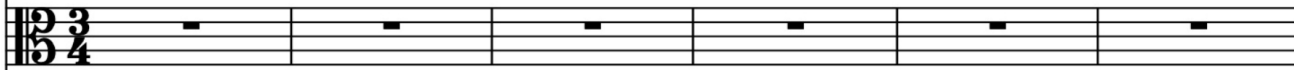
audio


A \flat \rightarrow A \flat audio track continues
into the next pages

♩ = c. 69. simple, with rubato

Fl. 

generally *p* unless marked otherwise
with room for expression

Vla. 

Hp. 

p - *mf* loosely and expressively following the phrase

occasionally expressively roll some other chords

Fl. 

ppp p

Vla. 

Hp. 

ppp p

Fl. *ppp* *p*

Vla.

Hp. *ppp* *p*

sim. emphasis on downbeats

Fl. *ppp* *p*

Vla.

Hp. *ppp* *p*

sim. emphasis on downbeats

Fl. *ppp* *p*

Vla.

Hp. *ppp* *p*

Fl. *ppp* *p*

Vla.

Hp. *ppp* *p*

the long notes wither away...


Fl.  *ppp* *p*

Vla. 

Hp.  *ppp* *p*

Fl. 

Vla. 

Hp. 

Fl. *ppp* *p*

Vla.

Hp. *ppp* *p*

Fl.

Vla.

Hp.

ppp

ppp

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Viola (Vla.), and Harp (Hp.). The Flute part is in treble clef, the Viola part is in alto clef, and the Harp part is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The score is divided into two systems. The first system has a 4/4 time signature, and the second system has a 2/4 time signature. The Flute part features a melodic line with a crescendo leading to a *ppp* (pianissimo) dynamic. The Viola part is mostly silent, with a few notes in the second system. The Harp part features a complex, arpeggiated texture with a crescendo leading to a *ppp* dynamic.

Fl. *p*

Vla

Hp. *p*

Fl.

Vla *p* slightly scratchy, airy tone

Hp.

Fl. *ppp*

Vla. *p* *IV* *5"* *4"*

Hp. *ppp*

Fl. *p*

Vla.

Hp. *p*

30

Handwritten musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Viola (Vla.), and Harp (Hp.).

- Flute (Fl.):** The staff is in treble clef. The music begins with a handwritten note "(independent)". The melody consists of several measures with notes, some marked with a wavy line and an accent. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.
- Viola (Vla.):** The staff is in alto clef. The music begins with a handwritten note "(independent)". The melody consists of several measures with notes, some marked with a wavy line and an accent. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.
- Harp (Hp.):** The staff is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The music consists of several measures with notes, some marked with a wavy line and an accent. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Handwritten annotations include:

- p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic markings.
- pppp* (pianissimo) dynamic markings.
- Wavy lines and accents above notes.
- Handwritten notes: "(independent)".

c. 40"

in any order/combination

fl

p

vla

p

introduce overpressure scratches

pizz

pizz

scratch

hp

roll chords

c. 15"

in any order / combination

Handwritten musical notation for three staves: f (flute), vla (viola), and hp (harp). The notation includes various musical symbols and performance instructions.

f (flute): Starts with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The staff contains several notes, some with slurs and wavy lines above them.

vla (viola): Starts with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The staff contains several notes, some with slurs and wavy lines above them. There are also markings for *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *scratch*.

hp (harp): The staff is mostly empty, with the instruction "get tuning key" written below it.

Below the harp staff, the following notes are written: $A\flat \rightarrow A\sharp$, $B\flat \rightarrow B\sharp$, $E\flat \rightarrow E\sharp$.

explore the space between scratches and tones

5"-6"

4"-5"

5"-6"

4"-5"

Handwritten musical notation for three staves: vla (viola), hp (harp), and hp (harp). The notation includes various musical symbols and performance instructions.

vla (viola): The staff contains several notes, some with slurs and wavy lines above them. There are also markings for *pp* (pianissimo) and *end after harp finishes*.

hp (harp): The staff contains several notes, some with slurs and wavy lines above them. There are also markings for *pp* (pianissimo) and *end after harp finishes*.

hp (harp): The staff contains several notes, some with slurs and wavy lines above them. There are also markings for *pp* (pianissimo) and *end after harp finishes*.