

Katharina S. G. Mueller

Character Sketches (2022)

in three movements

for solo viola

Ca 14:00'

Performance Note:**I**

Tempi are approximate and are ultimately up to the performer's musical discretion. They need not be exact in order to render the musical character, as long as relative relationships of speed are maintained. Rubato is encouraged, especially in grand ritardandos between phrases. Take care to emphasize when patterns of left hand pizzicati and arco notes are varied.

ca. 3:00

II

The harmonic trill is meant to be a constant background noise, as even in speed and dynamic level as possible. The note to be trilled in the harmonic trill, which changes occasionally, is indicated as a small note in parentheses. Allow silences to fully settle before moving into a new phrase.

ca. 7:00

III

Notes should be bowed for their written duration, and then allowed to further resonate, for example dotted quarters are to be played with a short bow stroke, then allowed to ring as opposed to being stopped.

ca. 4:00

Program Note:

"Character Sketches" explores the sonic variety possible on viola in a melodic context. Several forms of self accompaniment support the main melodic line throughout the work, including double stops, left-hand pizzicati, harmonic trills, and simultaneous countermelodies split between registers. Each movement is virtuosic in its own right, the first ebullient and celebratory, the second ponderous and lamenting, at times even distraught. The contrasting qualities of these characters allow for a befitting showcase of the viola's beauty and versatility.

Character Sketches

for solo viola

Katharina S. G. Mueller (2022)

I

Con Energico, around $\text{♩} = 130$

The musical score is written for solo viola in 3/8 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo of around 130 beats per minute. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 6, 11, 16, 21, 25, 27, 32, and 38 marked. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *p*, *sub p*, *mp*, *fp*, and *pp*. Articulations include accents, staccato (*pizz.*), and arco. A section starting at measure 25 is marked 'Soaring' with a tempo of 80. The score concludes with a 'let ring' instruction.

Measures 1-5: *f*, *mf*, *f*, *sub p*

Measures 6-10: *ff*, *p*, *arco*

Measures 11-15: *sub f*, *ff*, *mp*

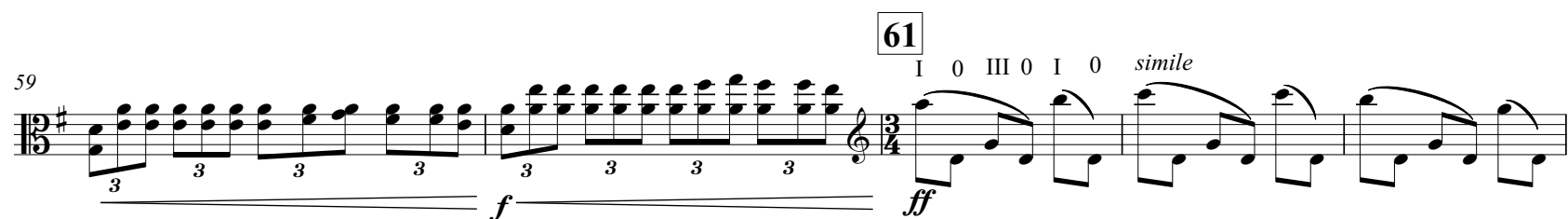
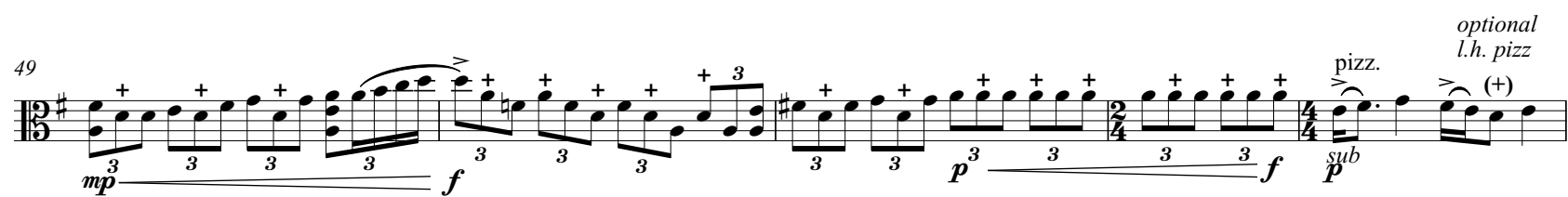
Measures 16-20: *mf*, *pizz.*

Measures 21-24: *f*, *arco*, *fp*, *pp*, *mp*

Measures 25-31: *Soaring*, $\text{♩} = 80$

Measures 32-37: *let ring*

44 Con Energico

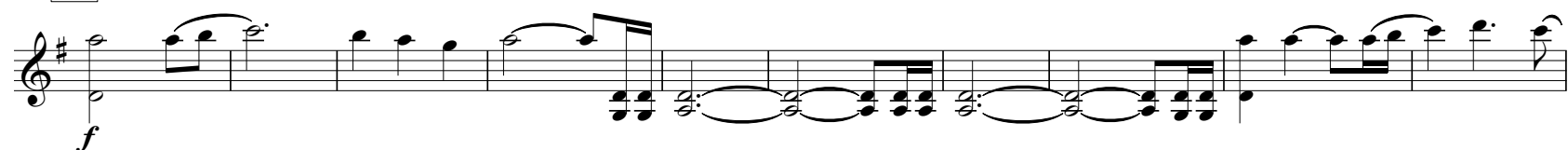


61

I 0 III 0 I 0 simile



78 Grand



molto rit. II



Mysterious ♩=70*Sul D*

Open string may not speak clearly, but aim for some contrast between lower and higher pitch

trill - - - - -

p mp p mp p

trill - - - - -

mp p mf p

mf f pp

20 Slightly Faster, Pressing forward*Sul C*

trill - - - - -

p mp p mp p mf p

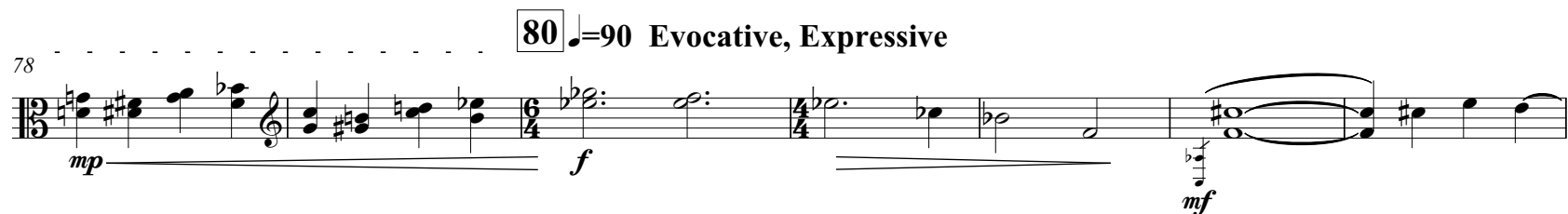
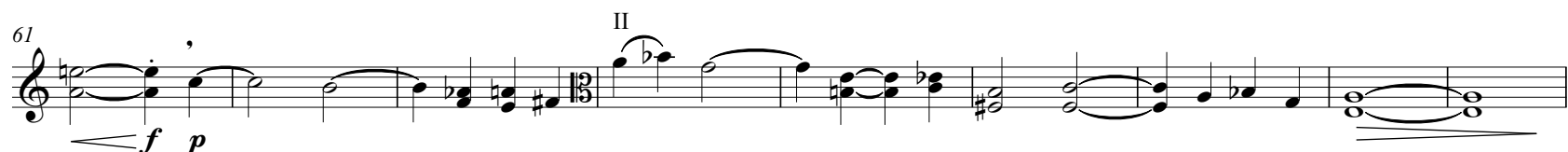
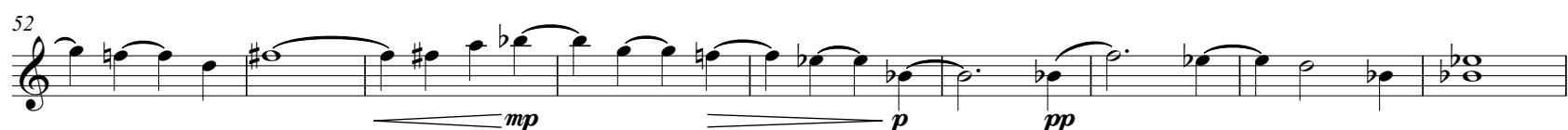
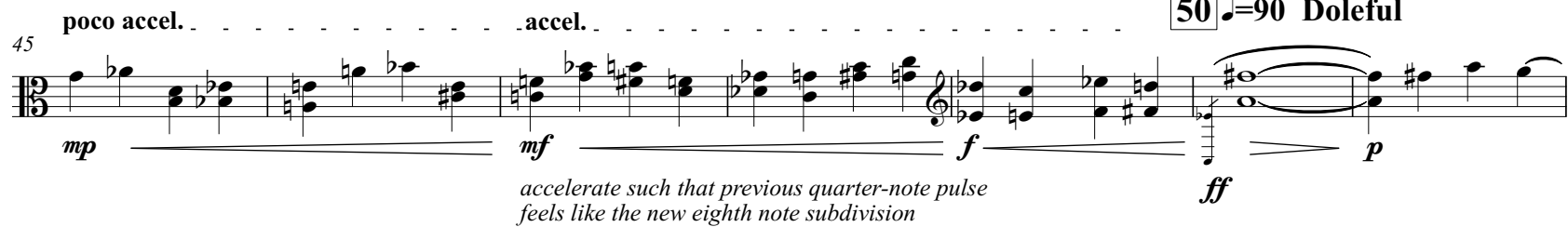
trill - - - - -

trill - - - - -

f mp f mp pp let open string speak before proceeding trill

gradually slow trill

38 Rubato, around ♩=90



molto rit. . . . ♩=90 Wailing

101

ff *f*

112 Resigned ♩=70

[illegible]

117

mf

123

mp *p* *pp*

130 **Molto Rubato, around $\text{♩}=90$**

[illegible]

135

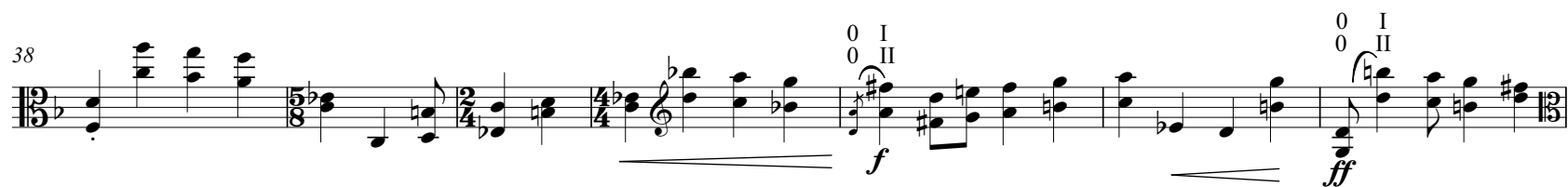
II
III

mp

II
III

III

III

Cautious, Rubato, around $\text{♩}=80$ 10 In Tempo $\text{♩}=95$ More Playful48 Lively $\text{♩}=108$ 

52

mf *f* *ff* *sub mf*

59

61

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pizz. arco*

66

mf *ff* *fp* *accel.*

72 Allegro Con Energico ♩=120-136

mp *f* *fp* *mf*

78

80

f

85

ff

92

101

98

sub.
p *f*

104

113 More Broadly

110

ff

121 In Time, Allegro

116

sub
p

126 More Broadly

123

mf *ff* *sub* *p* *f* *sub* *p*

Take Time

128

ff *pizz. let ring*