

Katharina S. G. Mueller

Middlegrounds

string quartet

(2022)

Performance Notes

The simple motif of two alternating notes should be handled as an expressive line, always reaching and opening to the longer (usually higher) note, even if only slightly. Pairs of crescendos and decrescendos are also indication of phrase. At beginning and at rehearsal H, the lowest voice should articulate such that there is minimal space between notes, but the start of each note is articulate. All note durations should be held for the full duration indicated, through to the start of the next subdivision that the following rest falls on.

Duration ca. 8:00

Program Notes

One approach to crafting a musical texture is to assign different voices to the foreground, middleground, or background of the sound. "Middlegrounds" first emerges as a texture of middle voices, with the simple motif of two alternating notes slowly growing out of a rhythmically-ambiguous blend. This rocking figure goes on to evolve into the various melodies and harmonies that construct the entire piece. Each instrument at times comes up to the foreground, or in stasis is submerged into the background, but middle voices remain prevalent, and throughout the piece are the primary generators of new musical ideas.

Middlegrounds

string quartet

Katharina S. G. Mueller

$\text{♩} = 96$ Slowly Growing

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

quiet yet present

legato

pp *mp* *pp*

piercing, stinging

7

A

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf < f *p* *f* *p > pp*

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

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

match vln. 1

13 *legato* **Grounded**

Vln. I *mf* *mp* *pp* *ff*

Vln. II *mf* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *f* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *pp*

B *Freely, Slightly Slower*

17 *Solo* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *l.v.* *l.v.* *legato* *pp* *pp* *mf*

Vln. I *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *l.v.* *l.v.* *legato* *pp*

Vln. II *l.v.* *sfz* *l.v.* *sfz* *l.v.* *sfz* *legato* *pp*

Vla. *l.v.* *sfz* *l.v.* *sfz* *l.v.* *sfz* *legato* *pp*

Vc. *l.v.* *sfz* *l.v.* *sfz* *l.v.* *sfz* *legato* *pp*

21 *Solo* *pp* *6* *mp* *5* *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. I *pp* *6* *mp* *5* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *pp* *mf* *f*

Vla. *f* *p*

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

C In Tempo

24

Vln. I *pp* *ppp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *p* *f*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

27

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *p* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

29

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vc. *mf*

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

mf

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

mf

f

D Agitato
molto espressivo

33

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

f

f

34

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

35

keep singing

mp

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Sul C

36

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

37

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

molto rit.

Freely

38

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Solo

p

p

p

mp

l.v.

E ♩ = 96 In Tempo

41

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

pp

pp

mf

pp

mp

pp

mp

f

pp

mf

pp

44

Vln. I

Vln. II *Solo*

Vla.

Vc.

f *pp* *f*

6 6 6 6

3

45

Vln. I *Solo a la cadenza*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *ff* *pp*

molto rit. *In Tempo* ♩ = 96

5 3

Solo dolce *pp*

48

Vln. I *Sul E*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

legato *pp* *p* *pp*

legato *pp* *p* *pp*

legato *pp* *p* *pp*

Solo legato *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Slowly Stirring

5

55

Vln. I *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *p* *mp*

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

poco a poco accel.

60

Vln. I *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf*

Vc. *f*

[G] ♩ = 110 Energetic, Pushing Forward

63

Vln. I *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Vln. II *ff* *f* *ffpp* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ffpp* *ff*

Vc. *ffpp* *ff*

68

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

fff

fff

fff

fff

73 **H** ♩ = 96 Calm

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

Sul G legato

pp

Sul G legato

quiet yet present

pp

Sul G change bows freely

ppp

Sul D to end legato

79 **I** ♩ = 80 Sotto Voce

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

non vib.

ppp *pp* *ppp* *p*

non vib.

ppp *pp* *ppp* *p*

non vib.

ppp *pp* *ppp* *p*

non vib.

ppp *pp* *ppp* *p*

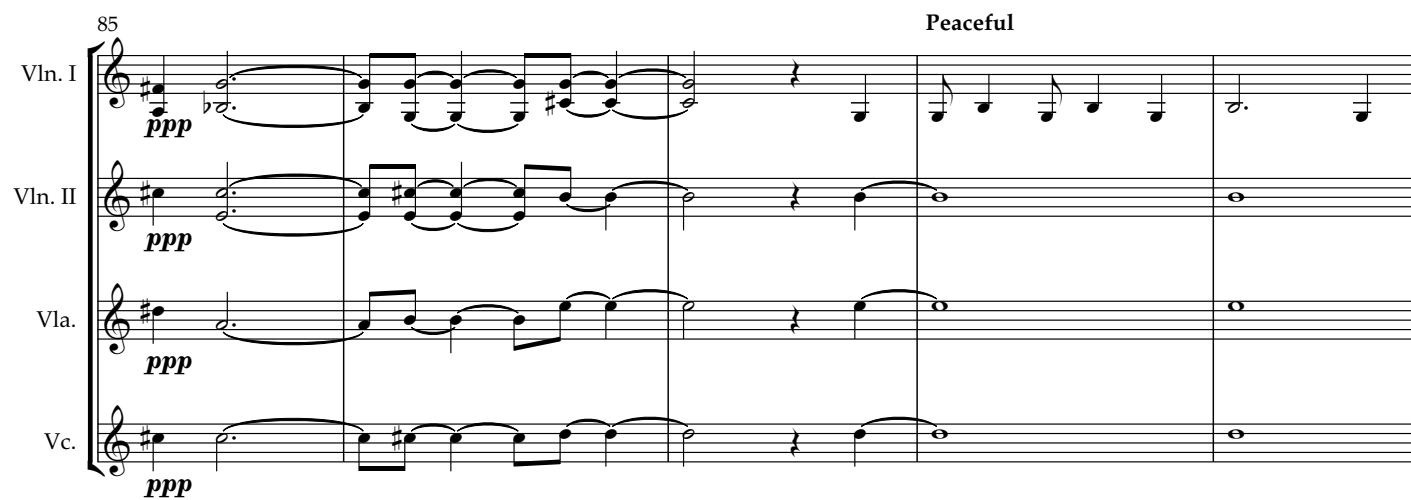
85 **Peaceful**

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*



90

Vln. I

Vln. II *change bows freely*

Vla. *change bows freely*

Vc. *Sul A change bows freely*

