2018.3

Sebastian Adams

For violin and cello duration: c. 5 mins [indeterminate]

Commissioned by Music Network

2018.3 was commissioned by Music Network for performance by Yury Revich and Benedict Kloeckner

Duration: indeterminate / approx. 5 minutes

Instrumentation: violin, violoncello

Scordatura: both instruments play with their lower two strings tuned down, as described below. The score is provided in two ways: (a) sounding pitch (b) scordatura notation [notes on the detuned strings are written with the note that is to be fingered, as if the strings are tuned conventionally]

Performance Notes:

- The sound should always be senza vibrato. Virtually all expression should be with the right hand.
- viola da gamba should be the sonic reference: plain, delicate, subtle, rich in harmonic content
- Both players should seek interactions between their notes (and between theirs and the other players') at all times.
- Pure tuning (i.e. flattened major thirds) should be aimed for throughout.

Freedom in the score:

- The score is only a guide: it can be altered. The piece is virtually an improvisation, and writing it down inevitably compromises by turning it into a fixed structure.
- Rhythm and tempo should be treated as utterly free.
- Pitch may also be inflected/ornamented throughout (although a fairly plain playing style is effective and appropriate).
- If wished, melodies and sections can also be altered by extending, repeating or contracting them. [this last aspect is optional the melody can be left as written!]
- Although rhythm is free, there are certain places where the two players must be in time/together, because the rhythm/timing is either motivically or structurally important. These are indicated in two ways:
 - (a) with a dashed line connecting both players' notes
 - (b) with a marking "this bar in strict time"
- Attention should be paid to the space, audience and atmosphere when deciding the speed, intensity and duration of gestures in the piece.
- A performance of this work should attempt to combine the various rules and freedoms of the score and performance notes with the players' own musical sensibilities.
- Dynamics are generally not specified and are at the discretion of the performers. However, an overall arc from quiet to loud and back is obviously sensible.

Key:

 ∞ - bars with an infinity sign between the two staffs can last as long as the players wish [generally a long time] **vertical dashed lines** – sync point (play this chord perfectly together)

comma – silent pause [length at player's discretion, drone can be paused or kept sounding as wished] **"-14" "0" etc.** – these indicate deviations from Equally Tempered tuning, in cents. -14 is the deviation of a pure major third from equal temperament.

Scordatura:



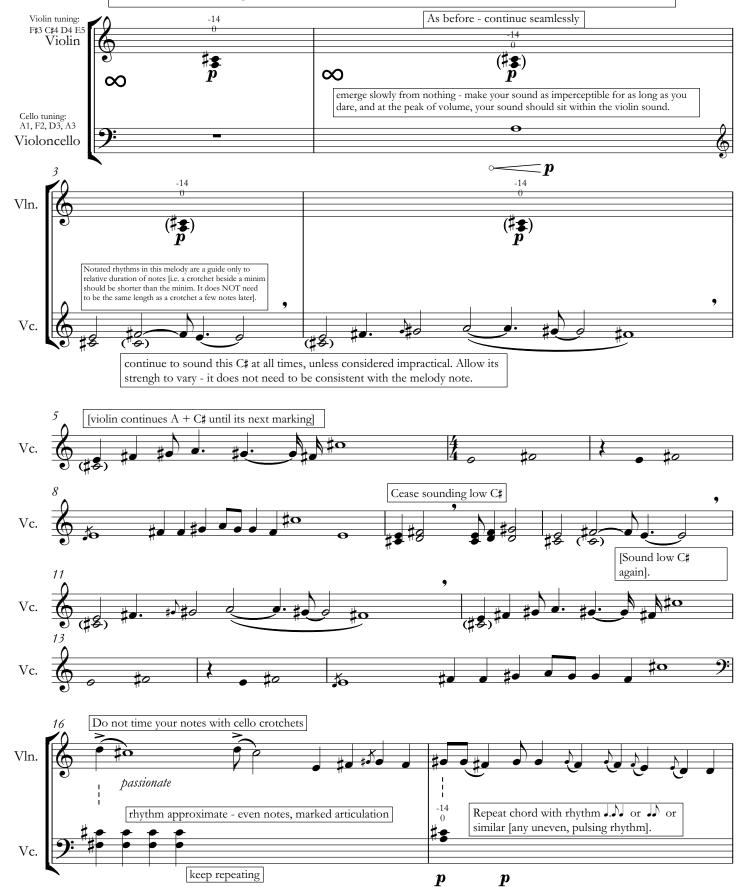
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S. Adams (version: 12/09/2018)

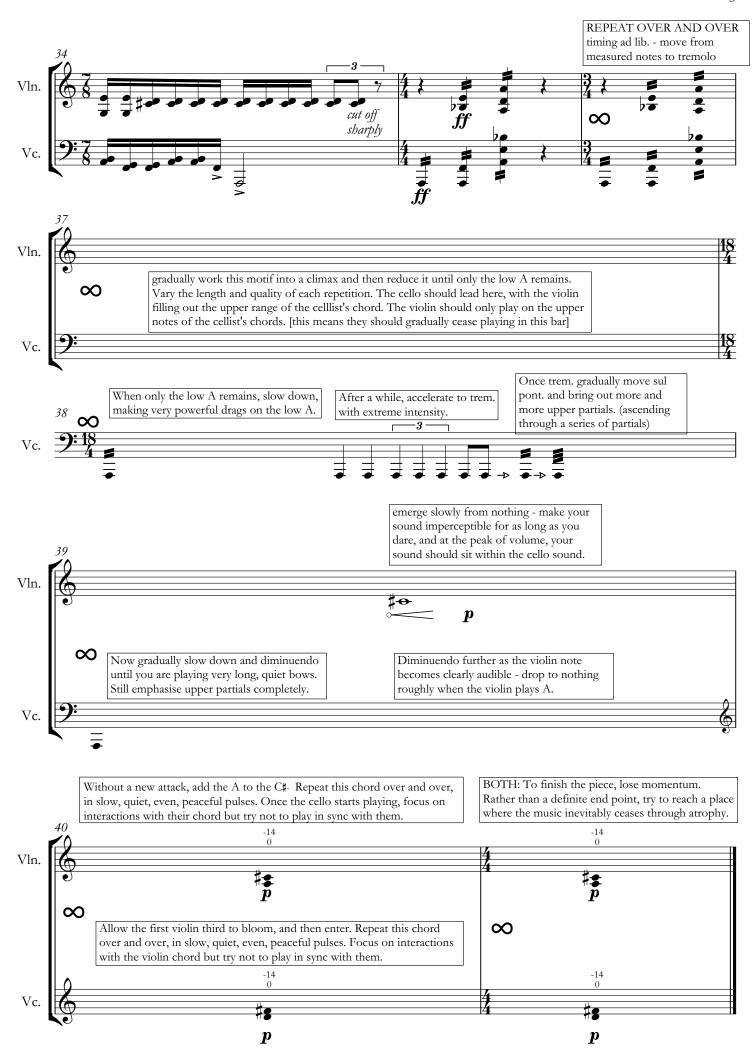
Slow - Tempo Not Remotely Strict

d = c.48

VIOLIN: Repeat chord with rhythm J. J or J or similar [any uneven, pulsing rhythm], altering rhythm and speed freely, and without respect to any meter. ensure a resonant and undying sound, blending the attack of each note with the death of the previous one.







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