

# Mirrors and Reflections

For Viola and Electronics

S. Adams

Notes on *Mirrors and Reflections*:

*Mirrors and Reflections* is a piece for viola and electronics. All the electronics are derived entirely from the sound of a viola, fed through guitar pedals and processed in a computer.

The viola part allows scope for the violist's own interpretation of the piece, particularly in the section from 0:04-0:44 and 0:46-1:14. Here the player is to improvise according to the instructions on the page.

The first forty-five seconds or so (Section A) of the piece are essentially a development of atmosphere, there is little in the way of melodic or, indeed, rhythmic material. As such I have not provided any notation of the electronics. The player is not bound by a time signature or tempo marking and is free to play at any pace, so long as it is slow.

In section B the violist is to improvise, using the printed passage as a starting point. While that passage is printed as a run of quavers, the player is not limited to playing in this rhythm. He should, however, adhere to the long slurs most of the time at least. Section B starts around the time the tremulous pizzicato begins.

Section C, beginning around 1:15, is relatively straightforward to explain as it follows a traditional score. It begins at bar 1 for the clarity's sake. Attention should be paid to the time cues on each bar, especially from 2:30 onwards. At bar 24 (Section D), the instinct will be to speed up. This should be encouraged. Should the violist reach bar 27 too early he should repeat it until 3:05, and then fall silent (Section E). The final pizzicato note should be played just as the final notes of the electronics die down, around 3:30.

**N.B.**

A suggestion for the bars marked 'bouncing' would be, instead, to strike the string hard with the flat bow edge and allow it to bounce percussively off the string, moving the bow only up and down in the air and not along the string. This sounds extremely effective when played with a very loose wrist.

S. Adams

# Mirrors and Reflections

S. Adams

## Section A


0:04-0:44

Vla. 

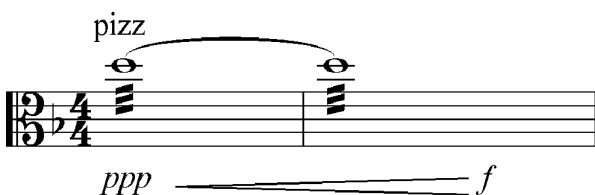
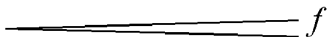
The Violist should play long notes from the chord of D minor, and at the end of each note snatch at a suitable harmonic for the briefest second. The above are suggestions, but the player should use their own discretion. This section *pianissimo*.

## Section B

0:46-1:14

Vla.   
*mp-mf*

Tape Cue:  
(0:44)

Electronics   
*ppp*  *f*

The player is to improvise using the above passage as a starting point. Irregular rhythms and other notes may be introduced at will.

# Section C

Electronics  
(Rough Cue)

Viola

Electronics

Vla.

Electronics

Vla.

Electronics

Vla.

1:15 1:20

bouncing 6

mf pp

mf mp

3 1:24 1:28 1:32

6

mp < mf

ff > mp < f

mp

dolce legato

6 1:36 1:40 1:44 1:48

> pp

mf

molto vibrato

10 1:52 1:56 2:00 2:04

mf

14 2:08.5 2:13

Electronics

Tape part continues

2:16.5 2:21

Vla.

2:25 2:29 2:33 2:38 2:42

Vla.

*f*

# Section D

2:45

Vla.

*f* roughly, at heel

Vla.

Vla.

27 3:06 Section E 3:12

Electronics

repeat until 3:05

Vla.

30 3:18 3:30

Electronics

pizz

Vla.

*pp*