

BRIAN FERNEYHOUGH

ADAGISSIMO

STRING QUARTET

EDITION PETERS

LONDON

Frankfurt

New York

Performance Notes

- Violins : Play *senza vibrato* throughout. Play with sudden sharp movements and exaggerate the fine gradations of timbre. Emphasise the extremes of dynamic and phrasing.
- Viola and Cello : Vary the degree of vibrato according to the phrasing. Produce a warm, dark timbre and avoid open strings. If a pitch is repeated after only a few intervening notes or after a rest, select a different string where possible for the repetition.
- Dynamic levels : The violins should adjust their level to that of the lower instruments. Aim at equality between the two groups whilst accepting moments of textural imbalance.
- Microtones : These are tempered:
 $\flat \sharp \# \# \flat \flat \flat \natural$ i.e. quarter-tones,
 or inflectional:
 (\sharp) i.e. towards the neighbouring semitone (here shown in brackets) as indicated by the direction of the arrow-head.
 $\sharp \flat \flat \natural$
 $(\flat) (b) (\flat)$
- Duration : 1'45"

Adagissimo was composed in November 1983 as a contribution to *Sir Michael Tippett O.M. – A Celebration* (The Baton Press) published in 1985 to commemorate Tippett's 80th birthday.

The first performance was given at the La Rochelle Festival by the Arditti String Quartet on 28 June 1984.

The work employs complex prolational techniques on several levels. The processual strata are also distinguished in timbre and texture. The ensemble is clearly divided into two groups, with the two violins playing rapid, florid gestures, and the viola and cello playing more melodically linear material.

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ADAGISSIMO

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

V'cello

Violin 1 and Violin 2 staves. Measure 44 starts with a tempo marking of 44. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. Dynamic markings include *con sord.*, *sfz p*, *sfz*, *pp*, *sf*, *mp*, *con sord.*, *sfz*, *mf*, *sfz*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *sfz*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*. Performance instructions include *gliss.* and *sfz*.

Viola and V'cello staves. Measure 44 starts with a section marker [3]. The Viola part includes dynamic markings *ff*, *mp*, *pp*, *f*, *sfzpp*, *pp*, *ff*, *mfz*, *p*, *sfz*, *pp*, *f*. Performance instructions include *gliss.*, *con calore (vibr)*, *con calore*, and *(vibr)*. The V'cello part includes dynamic markings *pp*, *mf*, *ppp*. Performance instructions include *(vibr)*.

Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and V'cello staves. Measure 54 starts with a section marker [5]. The Violin 1 part includes dynamic markings *pp*, *f*, *sub. mf*, *sfzpp*, *pp*, *ff*, *f*, *p*, *mfz*, *ff*, *ff*, *f*, *mp*. Performance instructions include *gliss.*, *gliss. tenuto*, and *gliss.*. The Violin 2 part includes dynamic markings *pp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *p*, *pp*, *sfzpp*. Performance instructions include *gliss. tenuto* and *gliss. tenuto*. The Viola part includes dynamic markings *pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *pp*, *sfzpp*. Performance instructions include *poco*, *pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *pp*, *sfzpp*. The V'cello part includes dynamic markings *mp*, *pp*, *marc. in p*.

8

sf in pp mfz-pp pp mp ff p mf cresc. quasi mp pp poco

gliss. sfz flaut. poco marc. in p sfz legato

perdendosi più agitato marc. in mf

10

al rall. sfz-pp p mp sfz poco ppp mf

gliss. sfz p alla punta legato poss.

affettuoso meno poco mf

13

sub. trem. flaut. gliss. sfz sfzp f sfz

sfzp sfzp sfzp sfzp sfz

pesante più tranquillo più tranquillo

pp p mf sfz-pp p sfz

15

fp, *f*, *mp*, *p*, *sfz*, *sub.*, *sf*, *al tall*, *subito legato*, *détaché*, *mp*, *poco f*, *atall.*

pp, *cresc.*, *f*, *mf*, *dim.*

pp *cresc.* *sempre* *(mf)*

18

sfpp, *mf*, *p*, *p-f*, *pp*, *sfz*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *loco*, *secco*, *molto marc.*

p, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *poco*, *pp*, *p*, *fp*, *mp*, *sfz*, *pp*, *f*, *mfz*, *mp*, *p*, *sf*

p, *poco*, *pp*, *p*, *ten.*, *poco*, *cresc.*, *mp*, *animato*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *sf*, *in mp*, *poco*, *p*

quasi, *f*

20

flaut., *gliss.*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *sfz*, *p*, *ff*, *sfz*, *al niente*

p, *fpp*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*

p, *ppp*, *f*, *mfz*, *p*, *al niente*

più calmo, *al niente*

Freiburg, Nov. 1983