

# String Trio

(The Magician)

violin, viola, cello

Lewis Nielson (1981)

*String Trio* was written in 1981, undedicated. As yet unperformed, I am indebted to Dylan Messina for encouraging me to make a performing edition of the work. At such a lengthy time remove I can give it no dedication except to the loyal, splendid, and idealistic members of *Bonne Action* who always give me hope.

**Performance Directions:**

Natural harmonics are notated as a sounding pitch with a circle above the notehead. Artificial harmonics are notated in tablature with (from the bottom up) stopped note and touched node. Only "touch 4" and "touch 5" artificial harmonics are used.

Accidentals apply only to the notes they precede. Precautionary accidentals are use frequently.

At the tempo markings of "Thirty-second = fast as possible," these thirty-seconds should be faster than thirty-seconds in any other tempo.

In general, this piece represents a journey from lightness and clarity to an atmosphere of darkness and violence that is cleansing rather than destructive (hence, the subtitle of the work, the first card of the Major Arcana of the Tarot). The cadence, then, is anything but a throw-away gesture but one that completes a circle.

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$\bullet = 48$

Violin *p*

Viola *con sord* *tenderly* *p* *3* *3* *via sord* *pp*  
only slightly louder than vln and vlc

Cello *p*

5

10 *parlando, light*

*mp* *6* *6* *6* *6* *6* *6*

*senza sord* *p*

15

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

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

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

20

\*crescendi/diminuendi are very slight (shimmering quality)

25

30

35

♩ = 72

Ritard. ————

♩ = 48  
poco vib

40

*ff* *mp*

*ff* *pp* *mp*

*ff* *mp*

*sul D* *noo vib*

tenderly  
*sul tasto*

3

3

45

move gradually to *ord* bow position

*ppp* *p*

*molto vib* *ord vib* *poco vib* *ord vib*

*p* *pp* *mp*

*ord vib* *molto vib* *poco vib* *molto vib* *ord vib*

*p* *pp* *mp*

50

move to *molto vib* move to *ord vib*

*mp* *p*

move to *molto vib* move to *ord vib*

*p* *mp* *p*

move to *molto vib* move to *ord vib*

*pp* *mp* *p*

*mp* *p*

55

Musical score for measures 55-60. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 55 is circled. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. There are accents and slurs throughout. A trill is marked with a 'V' in measure 60.

60

Musical score for measures 60-65. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 60 is circled. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. There are accents and slurs throughout. Trills are marked with a 'V' in measures 60 and 64.

65

Musical score for measures 65-70. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 65 is circled. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, and *mf*. The instruction "gaining in intensity" is written above the first staff. There are accents and slurs throughout. Trills are marked with a 'V' in measures 66 and 69.

♩ = 66 *legeramente ma espressivo*

70

First system of the musical score, measures 67-70. It consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The Treble staff features a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *ff*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. The Middle staff has a bass line with a 7-measure rest and dynamic markings of *ff*, *f*, *p*, and *f*. The Bass staff has a bass line with a 5-measure rest and dynamic markings of *ff* and *p*. A circled measure number '70' is located at the top right.

Second system of the musical score, measures 71-74. It consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The Treble staff has a melodic line with 5-measure rests and dynamic markings of *f*, *mp*, *f*, and *mf*. The Middle staff has a bass line with a 5-measure rest and dynamic markings of *mp*, *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. The Bass staff has a bass line with 3-measure rests and dynamic markings of *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*.

75

Third system of the musical score, measures 75-78. It consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The Treble staff has a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ff*. The Middle staff has a bass line with 5-measure rests and dynamic markings of *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ff*. The Bass staff has a bass line with 7-measure rests and dynamic markings of *f*, *p*, *f*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ff*.

80 = fast as possible ♩ = 48

*p* *ff* *p* *mp*

85 = fast as possible ♩ = 48

*ff* *mp* *f* *f* *pizz*

90

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*



95

*sul tasto*

*ord* ,

little shimmers,  
not in sync

100

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

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

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

**[?] = fast as possible**

♩ = 48

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

105

**[?] = fast as possible**

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

♩ = 48

110

*sul pont*

*mp* < *f* > *mf* *ff*

*molto vib* move to *ord vib* move to *molto vib* *noo vib*

5 sec. *pizz* *mf* *mp*

5 sec. *pizz* *mp*

5 sec. *pizz* *f* >

*Ritard.* *a tempo* (♩ = 52)

115

*arco* *poco ritard.* *pizz*

*pp* < *f* *f* *mf*

*arco* *pizz* *f* *mf*

*ord pizz* *(pizz)* *mp*

120

*f* *p* *mf* > *mp* < *f*

*f* *p* *mf* *f*

*f* *p* *f* *f*

♩ = 48

Musical score for measures 125-130, measures 1-3 of a system. The score is written for three staves (Treble, Bass, and Bass). It features dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *mp*, and *p*. Performance instructions include *arco* and *pizz*. There are also fingering numbers (3, 5) and a circled measure number 125.

Musical score for measures 131-135, measures 4-6 of a system. The score is written for three staves (Treble, Bass, and Bass). It features dynamic markings such as *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. Performance instructions include *pizz*, *Ritard.*, and *a tempo*. There are also fingering numbers (3, 5, 6) and a circled measure number 130.

Musical score for measures 136-140, measures 7-10 of a system. The score is written for three staves (Treble, Bass, and Bass). It features dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *f*. Performance instructions include *Ritard.* and *a tempo*. There are also fingering numbers (3, 5, 6) and a circled measure number 130.

Musical score for three staves, measures 135-145. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *pp*. It also features articulation instructions like *arco*, *pizz*, *subito*, and *ord*. Fingering numbers (5, 6, 3) are indicated throughout. Measure numbers 135, 140, and 145 are circled. The score is written in treble, bass, and alto clefs.

150

ff *mf* *mp*  
*pizz* *arco* *pizz*  
*p* *ff* *p* *f* *pp* *ff*  
*ff* *p* *f* *pp* *f*

155

*pp*  
*arco* *sul C* *pochiss.* *vib*  
*mf* *pp* *mp*  
*mf* *mp*

160

*light and sad*  
*mp*  
*p* *pp* *mp*  
*pp* *p*

165

*pizz arco*

*p mp*

*p mp*

*mp*

*mf > mp*

*mf > p*

170

175

*p*

*p < mp*

*p < mp*

*sul D*

*sul G*

*noo vib*

*molto vib*

*ord*

*p < mp*

*> p < mp > p mf*

7:6

180

*noo vib*

*mp*

*p mp*

*p < mp*

*p < mp*

*p < mf > p < mp*

*p pp*

*mf*

*p < mp*

*p < mp*

7:6

185

*p* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

*mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p subito*

*p* *mp*

*(mp)* *p*

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

*(mp)*

*8va* *8va* *loco*

190

*mf* *mf* *p < mp* *p < mf*

*mp* *mp*

*mf* *fp* *mp* *p < mf* *mp* *f*

*p* *mf* *mf* *p* *f* *mp*  
*mf* *f* *mp*  
*mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*  
*mp*

195

$\text{♩} = 60$

*ff* *ff* *ff* *f* *mp* *mp*  
*ff* *ff* *ff* *f* *mp* *f*  
*ff* *ff* *ff* *f* *ff* *mp* *f*  
*p* *mf* *mp* *f*  
*mp* *f*

*molto sul pont*  
*molto sul pont*

200

205

$\text{♩} = \text{fast as possible}$   $\text{♩} = 60$

*mf* *p* *fff*  
*fff* *fff*  
*fff* *fff*

*pizz* *f* *fff* *fff*  
*pizz* *f* *fff* *fff*

*arco ord* *arco ord*



210 [?] = fast as possible

♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 210-214. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The music is written in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as 'fast as possible' with a circled '210' and a box containing a question mark. A metronome marking indicates a quarter note equals 60 (♩ = 60). The dynamics are marked *fff* (fortississimo) throughout. The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and various articulations like accents and slurs.


Severe! 215

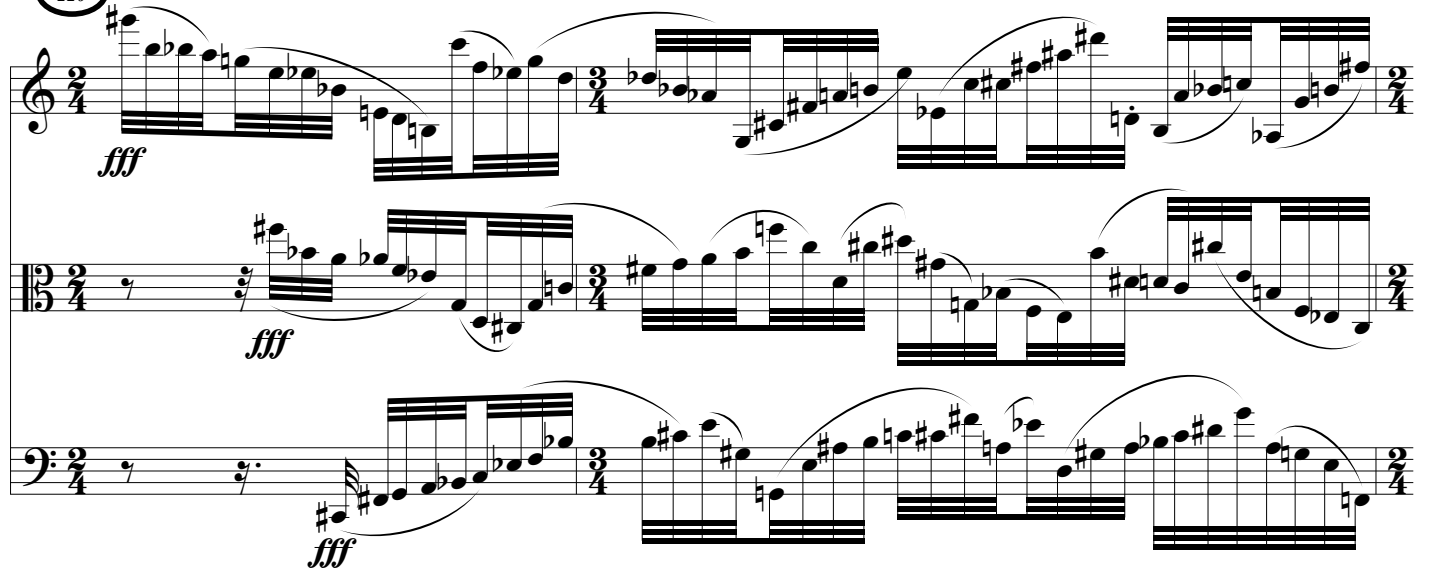
[?] = fast as possible

Musical score for measures 215-219. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The music is written in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is marked as 'fast as possible' with a circled '215' and a box containing a question mark. The dynamics are marked *ff* (fortissimo) and *fff*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets, and various articulations like accents and slurs. A 'Severe!' instruction is placed above the first staff.

♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 220-224. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The music is written in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is marked as 'fast as possible' with a circled '215' and a box containing a question mark. A metronome marking indicates a quarter note equals 60 (♩ = 60). The dynamics are marked *ff* (fortissimo). The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and various articulations like accents and slurs.


220  = fast as possible




*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

$\text{♩} = 60$   = fast as possible



*ff*

*fff*

*ff*

*fff*

225



♩ = 54

230

Ritard. ----- ♩ = 48

mp sfz ff sfz

pizz arco

3 3 3

Ritard. ----- a tempo (♩ = 48)

235

dolce

mp p pp

pizz arco

5 7

ancora dolce

molto ritard. ----- a tempo (♩ = 48)

240

molto vib move to - - - ord vib

mf mp p pp

pizz arco

5 6 3

*preciso!*

245

*pizz* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *(pizz)*

*pizz* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *(pizz)*

*pizz* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf* *(pizz)*

*Ritard.* *(molto !)* *a tempo* 250

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

*mp* *sfz* *arco*

*(pizz)* *mp* *f* *p* *arco* *sfz*

Athens, GA, Dec. 1981;  
Oberlin, OH, May, 2011.  
in n.D.