

Hugo Bell

# Between the Smallest of Spaces

for viola and snare drum

(2019)



Hugo Bell

# Between the Smallest of Spaces

for viola and snare drum

7½ mins

Viola

Snare Drum

- 1 drum stick
- 1 violin bow
- 2 handfuls of uncooked rice (or similar dried grains) kept in an accessible bowl

## Performance Notes

Both performers should seek to produce unidiomatic and denatured timbres throughout the piece. The Violist should aim for a fragile, grainy and 'noisy' sound and never use vibrato, whilst the Percussionist should aim for a 'smooth', unfluctuating timbre when playing with hands.

The start of each note should be played without any emphasis or articulation unless stated otherwise.

All the sustained notes in the Viola part should be played with a single bow stroke.


# Viola

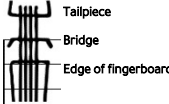
→ Technique to be sustained until further instructions

▣ Scratch tone / heavy overpressure (upbow/downbow at the player's discretion)

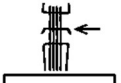
⊕ Damped string

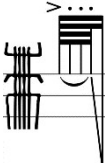
○ Undamped string

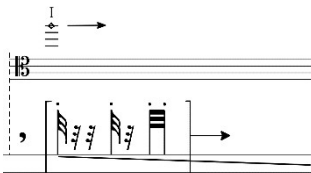
 Repeat boxed content for the duration of the wavy line

 Bridge clef - illustrates the distance of the bow from the bridge and the direction of vertical gestures along the strings of the instrument

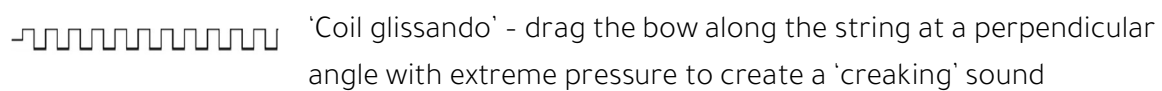
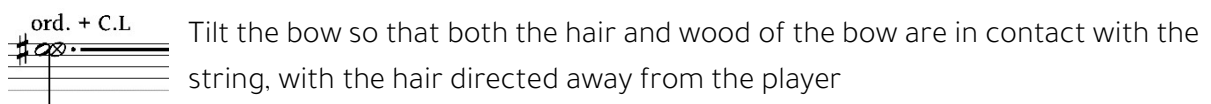
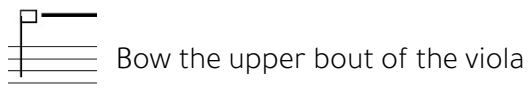
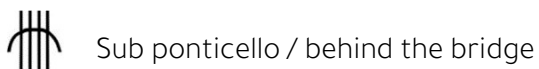
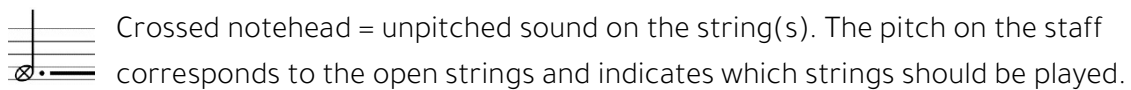
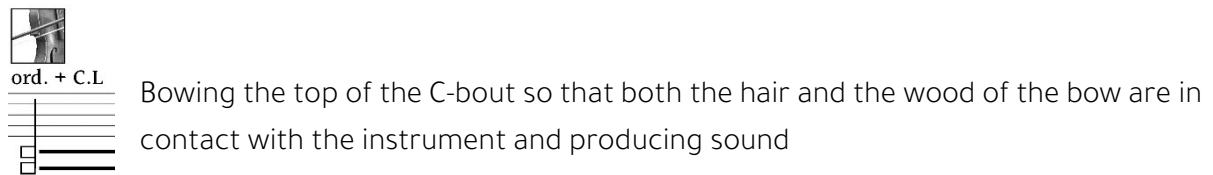
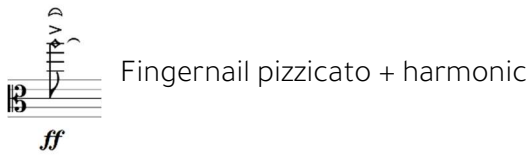
S.T. = Sul Tasto / M.S.P. = Molto Sul Pont / C.L. = Col Legno / **ord.** = Regular bowing

 Play directly on top of the bridge

 Ricochet + vertical 'wipe' down the fingerboard

 Harmonic to be held with left hand

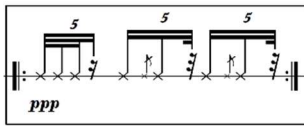
## Viola (continued)



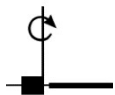
# Snare Drum



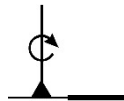
Arco - rest the butt of the drum stick on the centre of the drum head and bow the overhanging section to create a resonant drone



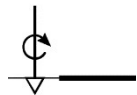
Repeat boxed content for the duration of the wavy line



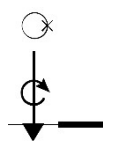
Rub the drum head in a circular motion with the **flat of your hand**



Rub the drum head in a circular motion using the **pads of all 5 fingers** with firm pressure but no resulting 'friction sounds' with the drum head



Rub the drum head in a circular motion using the **flats of your fingernails in a 'claw' shape (not scratching the drum head)** resulting in a darker tone



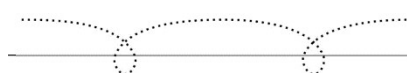
Run a single fingernail around the very edge of the drum head



Return to original / regular position on the drum head



'Tremolo' with pads of fingers




Lift snare drum from its stand and slowly tilt it from side to side in a slightly circular motion allowing the rice grains to slide across the drum head

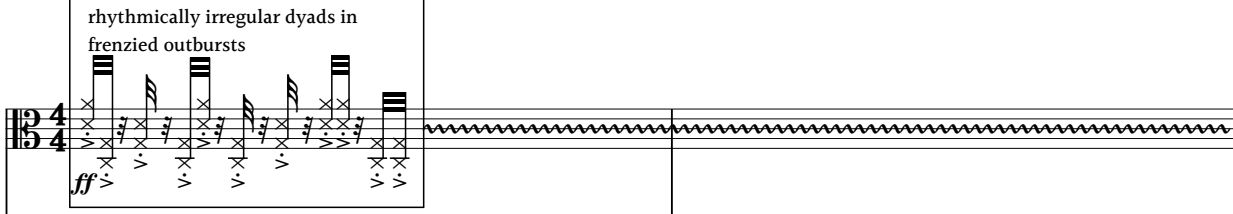
# Between the Smallest of Spaces


Hugo Bell

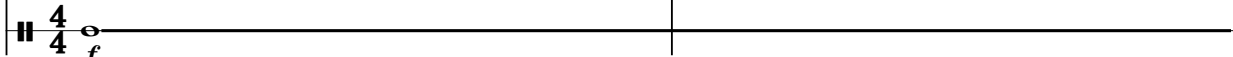
2019

$\text{♩} = 60$   


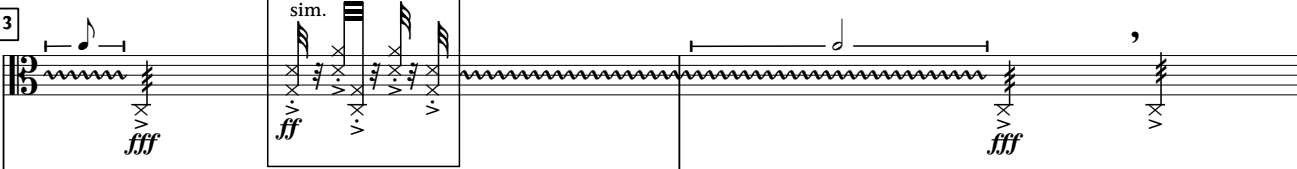
rhythmically irregular dyads in frenzied outbursts

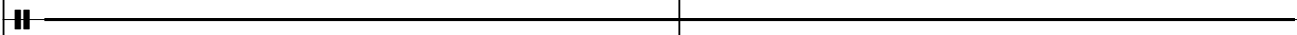
Viola 

  
arco - creating a seamless drone, rebowing ad lib.

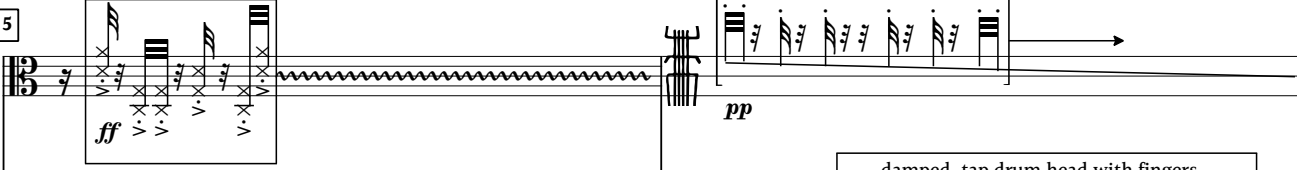
Snare Drum 

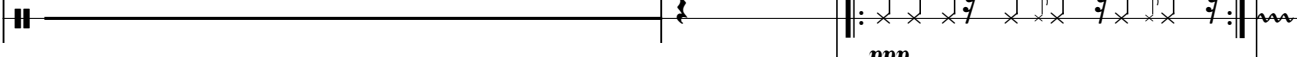
3

Vla. 

Snare 

5

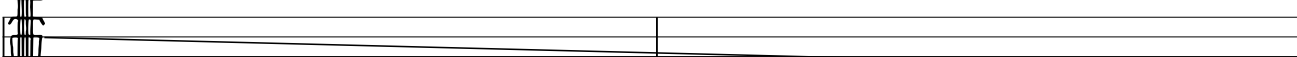
Vla. 

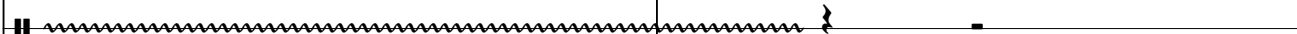
Snare 

C.L.  
I  
rhythmically sim., like a geiger-counter

damped, tap drum head with fingers repeating ad lib.

7

Vln. 

Snare 

9

Vla. *ord.* *ff*

Snare *arco* *f*

'wiping' the bow perpendicular to the string

IV

11

Vla. *fff*

Snare

IV

S.T., rhythmically sim. *fff*

13

Vla. *S.T., sim.*

Snare

15

Vla. *C.L.* *I* *pp*

Snare *ppp*



17

Vla.

Snare

19

Vla.

Snare

21

Vla.


Snare

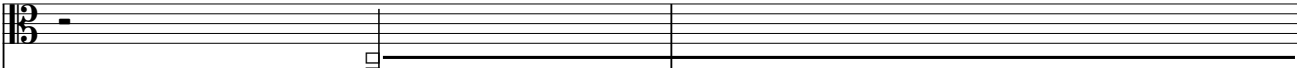
23


Vla.

Snare

**pp** *sempre, evenly  
balanced with violin*  
always a smooth,  
continuous &  
unfluctuating sound  
with clearly defined  
onsets and ends


25  ord. + C.L.


Vla. 

Snare 

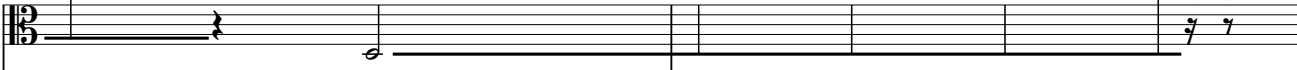
*pp* *sempre, evenly balanced with snare*  
 always a rich, grainy, 'noisy' & continuous sound, with the exception of  
 harmonics which should always be clear and unfluctuating in timbre


27 C.L.

Vla. 

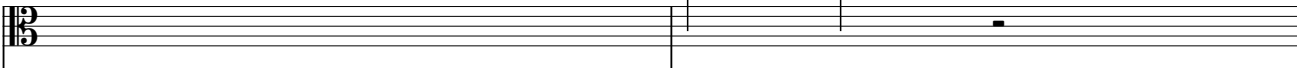
Snare 


29 C.L.

Vla. 

Snare 

31 ord.

Vla. 

Snare 

33 ord. + C.L. ord., M.S.P.

Vla. *incredibly fragile and 'whispy'*

Snare

35

Vla.

Snare

37 C.L. ord. + C.L.

Vla.

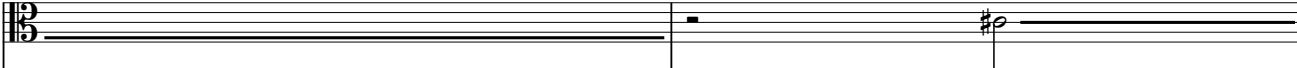
Snare

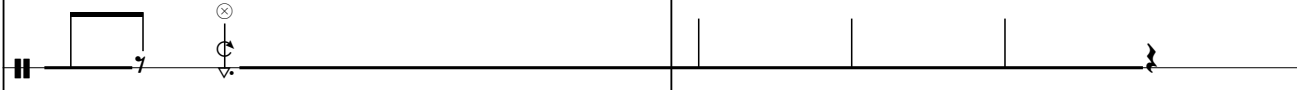
39 C.L.

Vla.

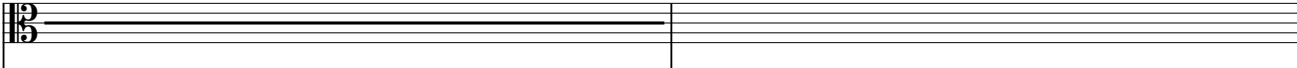
Snare

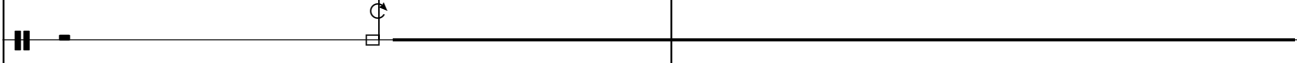
41 C.L

Vla. 


Snare 

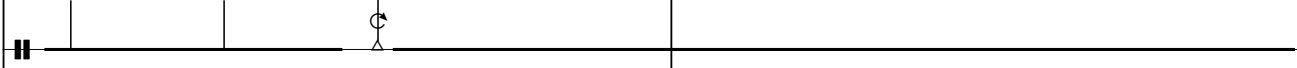
43 ord.

Vla. 

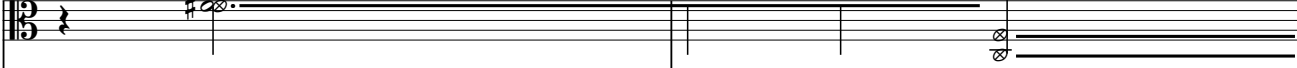
Snare 


45

Vla. 

Snare 

47 ord. + C.L ord., M.S.P

Vla. 

Snare 

49

Vla. C.L. ord. + C.L.

Snare

51

Vla. C.L.

Snare

53

Vla. ord. M.S.P., as light as possible

Snare

55

Vla. sim.

Snare

57

Vla.

Snare

59

sim.

Vla.

Snare

61

C.L., slower than before

I

Vla.

Snare

63

Vla.

Snare

65

Vla.

Snare

IV

sub. *ff*

67

Vla.

Snare

II ⊕  
III ○  
(2)  
= ord.

with a hushed intensity and 'mechanically precise' counterpoint

ord. + C.L.

with a hushed intensity and 'mechanically precise' counterpoint

69

Vla.

Snare

ord. + C.L.

C.L.

71 C.L. ord. M.S.P. ord.

Vla.

Snare

73 ord. + C.L. II (S) ord. C.L.

Vla.

Snare

75 ord. C.L. ord., M.S.P. C.L. ord. + C.L.

Vla.

Snare

77 I (S) ord. C.L. C.L. ord. C.L. C.L.

Vla.

Snare





79

ord. + C.L.      M.S.P.      C.L.      ord. + C.L.

Vla.

Snare

81

IV (2)      III IV (2)      IV (2)

Vla.

Snare

83

III IV (2)      IV (2)

Vla.

Snare

85

III IV (2)

C.L.

*ff*      *pp*

take a small fistful of rice grains and let them drop randomly and sporadically onto the drum head from a height of approx. 15cm

Vla.

Snare

87

Vla.

Snare

89

Vla.

Snare

II  
(2)  
ord.

*"mf" matching the snare drum dynamic*

arco, snare off, allowing the rice grains to vibrate

mf

91

Vla.

Snare

I  
II  
(2)

II  
(2)

I  
II  
(2)

93

Vla.

Snare

II  
(2)

C.L.

pp

rice sim.

ff

ff

95

Vla.

Snare

97

Vla.

Snare

c. 1'00"

Vla.

IV

dragging the bow as heavily and as slowly as possibly whilst taking care so as not to make contact with the other strings

fff (at the nut)

⊕ (damp IV when the bow is reaching the end of the fingerboard)

Snare

maintaining a continuous, unbroken sound

ensuring that there are no rice grains still moving on the drum head after the violist has finished playing