

Velocity

For String Quartet



David Lancaster



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Velocity

Velocity (composed in 2012) is a companion piece to my earlier *Vertigo* quartet (based on Bernard Herrmann's film music). *Velocity* doesn't quote directly from Herrmann but does emulate the 'sighing' cadential gestures which are a striking characteristic of Herrmann's score.

The title refers to one of the simple ideas behind the work, namely that closer objects appear to move more quickly than distant ones, so in the music the fast passages are in the foreground at a louder dynamic level than the slower passages, to create a dynamic, three-dimensional quality where surprise and inevitability co-exist.

The opening of *Velocity* contrasts the fast, loud music in the viola and the soft, sustained sounds of the others; it establishes D as tonal centre and outlines the minor third as an important structural unit. Contrasting musical ideas form a steady processional, interrupted at bar 60 by the first extended loud passage. This template (a montage of slow, soft elements leading to explosive outburst) is applied in successive cycles. The longest passage of soft music is abruptly interrupted by the final extended explosion of hocketing monody; the intensity subsequently subsides into a return of the opening music and loud outbursts become momentary interjections rather than foreground activity.

For String Quartet

Duration: 10 minutes

Velocity String Quartet

David Lancaster

Ritmico, calmo ♩=90

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

pizz.

ppp

pizz. arco

ff

ppp

feroce

ff

pizz. >

pizz.

ff

sim.

ff

arco (nat)

ff

ppp

Musical score for string quartet, page 6, measures 1-3. The score consists of four staves: Violin 1 (top), Violin 2, Cello, and Double Bass (bottom). The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). Measure 1: Violin 1 starts with a sustained note followed by eighth-note pairs (arco), then eighth-note pairs with grace notes (ppp, arco). Violin 2 has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Cello has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Double Bass has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Measure 2: Violin 1 has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Violin 2 has eighth-note pairs (ff). Cello has eighth-note pairs (ff). Double Bass has eighth-note pairs (ff). Measure 3: Violin 1 has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Violin 2 has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Cello has eighth-note pairs (ppp). Double Bass has eighth-note pairs (ppp).

12

A

pizz.

20

arco

ppp arco

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

28

ppp

ppp

mp pizz.

arco (nat)

ppp

32

(ord.)

39

B

46 pizz.

arco

ff

pizz.

ff

(nat)

ppp

52

pp $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{5}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$

p **ppp**

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

60

C

pizz. arco

ff

pizz.

ff

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

ff

65

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp subito

pizz.

arco

pp

72

pizz.
mp
(nat)
○

ppp

arco

p

p

p

p

80

D

pizz.

mp

(nat)

ppp

pizz.

mp

84

arco II (nat)

mp

pizz.

mp

arco (non vib):

pp

mf

3

3

3

pizz.

mp

89

arco

mp

pizz.

arco (non vib.)

mf

pp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mf

ff

mp

pizz. arco sul pont:

ff

pizz.

arco

>p

mp

ff

pizz.

(pizz.)

mp

ff

mp

E

100

pizz. arco
ff
arco ff pizz.
ff arco
mp ff

104

pizz. arco
pizz. arco pizz.
arco pizz. arco
ppp

108

arco
ppp
mp ppp
mf ppp

113

pp

pp

pp

pp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

119 F

sul pont.

ord.

f

p

p

p

ff

pizz.

mp

p

pp

122

mp

arco

mp

alt.

p

*alt.**

pp

mp

pp

arco

p

p

mp

* alt = freely alternate pizz, spicc, col legno, battuto, sempre pp

126

G

arco

mf

pizz.

pp

mp

alt.

*alt.**

pp arco

mp

130

mp

pizz.

pp

arco

mp

arco (non vib)

mf

p

pp

pp

135

arco

alt.

pp

alt.

pp

alt.

pizz.

alt.

10

139

139

arco
arco
mp
pizz.
mp
arco
p

alt.
alt.
pp
alt.
pp
alt.

143

H

sul pont.

alt.

arco
mp

pizz.
ff
ff arco

f
mp

arco
mp

147

alt.
pp

alt.
pp

arco
mp

alt.
pp

151

pizz. alt. *pp*

p *pp*

155

arco *mp*

160

p *pp*

pizz. alt.

12

I

164

pizz. alt.

p pp

169

173

178 (a)

J

pizz.

ff sempre
pizz.
arco
ff sempre
arco
pizz.
ff sempre

182 arco

pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

187 arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

191

pizz. arco pizz. arco

195

arco pizz. K

fff fff ff ff

pizz. ff arco

199

ff ff ff ff

204

L

arco

15

Musical score for section L, measures 204-210. The score consists of four staves. Measure 204 starts with a rest followed by a dynamic ***ff***. The second staff has a sixteenth-note pattern. The third staff has a eighth-note pattern. The fourth staff has a bass line. Measures 205-206 show various dynamics including **pizz. *p***, ***mf***, ***pp***, ***ff***, ***p***, and ***ff***. Measures 207-208 show **arco** strokes. Measures 209-210 show **pizz.** strokes.

210

pizz.

Musical score for section L, measures 210-215. The score continues with four staves. Measures 210-211 show ***p***, **arco**, ***ff***, **pizz.**, and **arco**. Measures 212-213 show ***ff***, **pizz.**, and ***ff arco***. Measures 214-215 show **pizz.**, ***ff***, ***p***, and ***ff***.

M

215 arco

Musical score for section M, measures 215-220. The score consists of four staves. Measures 215-216 show **arco**, **pizz.**, **arco**, and **pizz.**. Measures 217-218 show **arco**, **pizz.**, **arco**, and **pizz.**. Measures 219-220 show **arco**, **pizz.**, **arco**, and **arco**.

16

220

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

N

224

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

mp

ff

mp

ff

ff

pizz.

arco

fff

ff

ff

pizz.

arco

fff

ff

228

arco
pizz.
mp
arco
ff

arco
mp
ff pizz.
pizz.
arco

pizz.
mp
arco
ff

arco

233

arco
pizz.
ff
arco
mp

pizz.
arco
ff
ff

pizz.
arco
ff
ff
mp

239

O
mp
pizz.
ff arco
ff
pizz.
ff
ff
pizz.
ff
ff
ppp
ppp

245

pizz.
ff
arco
ppp
arco
ff
ff
ff
ppp
ppp

18

250

pizz.

arco

ff

ppp

ff

ppp

ff

ppp

mf

V

ppp

V

256

P

mp

mp

mp

pizz.

mp

arco

mp

V

261

p

p

p

p

268

Musical score for four staves (string quartet) showing measures 268-269. The score consists of four staves: Violin 1 (G clef), Violin 2 (G clef), Viola (C clef), and Cello (F clef). The key signature changes between 4/4, 5/4, and 5/4. The time signature changes between 4/4 and 5/4. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, and *pppp*. Measure 268 starts with a rest followed by a dynamic *pp*. Measure 269 starts with a rest followed by a dynamic *ppp*. Measure 270 starts with a rest followed by a dynamic *pppp*.