

PLAINSONG FOR STRINGS

(revised version)

Jennifer Fowler

PLAINSONG FOR STRINGS

(revised version)

Jennifer Fowler

for divisi strings:

Beginning to J:	Violin 1 Violin 2 Violin 3 Violin 4 &/or Viola 2 Viola 1
J - L:	Cello 1 (solo) Cello 2 (solo)
L - N :	Violas 1 & 2 Cello 1 (tutti) Cello 2 (tutti) D.Bass
N - end:	Violin 1 Violin 2 Violin 3 Violin 4 Viola 1 Viola 2 Cello 1 (solo) Cello 2 (solo)

Can be 1, 2, or more instruments on each part (except where marked “solo”) depending on resources. An effective contrast in texture would be to have single instruments per part up to letter L, then more instruments per part after that.

Duration : 10 - 11 mins.

Adapted for strings (by the composer) from Veni Sancte Spiritus for chamber choir.

Programme note.

NOTES on **PLAINSONG FOR STRINGS**
JENNIFER FOWLER

This piece is an adaption of an earlier piece for chamber choir, based on the plainsong "Veni Creator Spiritus". It explores a process of built-in resonance.

Canons have always been an "echo device", but in this piece the canonic voices proceed at fluctuating speeds, so that the time relationship between voices is constantly shifting.

Throughout, a single line is used, but decorated and smudged outwards in such a way that the resulting sound can be directionalised and shaped.

* * * * *

Preview File Only

PLAINSONG FOR STRINGS

Jennifer Fowler

$\text{♩} = 88$

Violin 1: mp *, p

Violin 2: mp *, $5:4$, p , mp , 3 , $4:3$

Violin 3: mp *, 3 , 3 , p

Violin 4 and/or Viola 2: mp *

Viola 1: mp *, $5:4$, p , mp , 3 , $4:3$

Cello 1: -

Cello 2: -

Double bass: -

5

Vln 1: mp , p , mp

Vln 2: p , mp

Vln 3: mp , $4:5$, p , mp

Vln 4/Vla 2: p , mp

Vla 1: p , mp

* The lines should flow. Ignore normal strong beats, and lean on the note at the beginning of each bow stroke.

9

Musical score for measures 9-12, featuring five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The score includes dynamic markings (mp, p), articulation (accents), and fingering (3, 4, 5). Measure 10 contains a 4:5 ratio. Measure 11 contains a 3-fingered triplet. Measure 12 contains a 6:5 ratio.

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

mp p mp

mp p mp

mp p mp

p mp mp p

mp

4:5

3

3

4:5

6:5

4:3



Preview File Only

13

A

Musical score for measures 13-16, featuring five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The score includes dynamic markings (mp), articulation (accents), and fingering (4, 5). Measure 13 contains a 4:3 ratio. Measure 14 contains a 5-fingered quintuplet. Measure 15 contains a 4:5 ratio. Measure 16 contains a 5-fingered quintuplet.

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

mp

mp

mp

mp mp

mp

4:3

5

4:5

5

17

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

mp

p

mp

4:3

3:1



Preview File Only

21

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

p

5:4

3:1

B

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score is for five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 25 starts with a dynamic of *mp*. Measure 26 features a triplet in Vln 2 and a 6:5 interval in Vln 2. Measure 27 has a 4:3 interval in Vln 3. Measure 28 has a 4:5 interval in Vln 4/Vla 2. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 28.

29

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is for five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 29 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 30 features triplets in Vln 2 and Vln 3, and 4:3 intervals in Vln 2 and Vln 3. Measure 31 has a dynamic of *mp*. Measure 32 ends with a dynamic of *p*. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 32.

33

Vln 1
p mp

Vln 2
mp mf

Vln 3
p mp

Vln 4/
Vla 2
mp p mp

Vla 1
mp mf



Preview File Only

37

Vln 1
mf mp mp

Vln 2
mp mp

Vln 3
mf mp

Vln 4/
Vla 2
mf mp mp

Vla 1
mp mp

41

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

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

3 3 3 3

Preview File Only

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 41 to 44. It features five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include piano (p) and mezzo-piano (mp). Vln 1 and Vla 1 have trills in measures 43 and 44. Vln 3 and Vln 4/Vla 2 have triplets in measures 43 and 44. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is oriented diagonally across the page.

45

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *gliss.*

4:3 3 3 3 3 3

gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 45 to 48. It features five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include piano (p), mezzo-piano (mp), and glissando (gliss.). Vln 2 has a 4:3 ratio in measure 46. Vln 3 and Vln 4/Vla 2 have triplets in measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. Vln 1, Vln 2, and Vla 1 have glissando markings in measures 47 and 48. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 44, before measure 45 begins.

49 **D**

Vln 1 p p mp

Vln 2 p mp p

Vln 3 p 4:3

Vln 4/
Vla 2 gliss. p

Vla 1 p mp

Preview File Only

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 49 to 52. It features five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. A dynamic marking 'D' is placed above the first measure. Vln 1 starts with a piano (p) dynamic and moves to mezzo-piano (mp) by measure 51. Vln 2 starts piano and moves to mezzo-piano. Vln 3 has a piano dynamic with a 4:3 ratio indicated. Vln 4/Vla 2 includes a glissando (gliss.) marking in measure 50. Vla 1 starts piano and moves to mezzo-piano. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.



53

Vln 1 p

Vln 2 p

Vln 3 mp 4:3 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2 mp 4:5 3

Vla 1 p 3

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 53 to 56. It features five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. Vln 1 starts with a piano (p) dynamic. Vln 2 starts piano. Vln 3 starts mezzo-piano (mp) with a 4:3 ratio and includes a triplet (3) in measure 55. Vln 4/Vla 2 starts mezzo-piano with a 4:5 ratio and includes a triplet (3) in measure 55. Vla 1 starts piano and includes a triplet (3) in measure 55.

57 **E**

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

Preview File Only

61

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

65 **F**

Vln 1
Vln 2
Vln 3
Vln 4/
Vla 2
Vla 1

mp p mp p mp p mp

3 4:3 4:3

This system contains measures 65 through 68. It features five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. A dynamic marking of **F** is placed above the first measure. The music includes various articulations such as slurs, accents, and breath marks. Specific markings include triplets in measures 65 and 67, and 4:3 ratios in measures 66 and 67. Dynamic markings range from *p* to *mp*. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 68.

69

Vln 1
Vln 2
Vln 3
Vln 4/
Vla 2
Vla 1

mp mp mp mp

3 3 3

This system contains measures 69 through 72. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The music continues with slurs and accents. Dynamic markings are consistently *mp*. There are triplets in measures 70, 71, and 72. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 72.

73 **G**

Musical score for measures 73-76. The score is for five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. A box labeled 'G' is positioned above measure 74. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano) in measures 74, 75, and 76. Measure 73 features a triplet in Vln 1 and a sextuplet in Vln 3. Measure 74 has a triplet in Vln 2. Measure 75 has a triplet in Vln 3. Measure 76 has a triplet in Vln 4/Vla 2. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.



77

Musical score for measures 77-80. The score is for five staves: Vln 1, Vln 2, Vln 3, Vln 4/Vla 2, and Vla 1. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano) in measures 77, 78, 79, and 80. Measure 77 has a triplet in Vln 2. Measure 78 has a triplet in Vln 3. Measure 79 has a triplet in Vln 4/Vla 2. Measure 80 has a triplet in Vla 1. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

80

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

mf

mf

mf

mf

mp



Preview File Only

84 **H**

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4/
Vla 2

Vla 1

mp

mp

mp

mp

87

Vln 1
mf

Vln 2
mf

Vln 3
mf

Vln 4/
Vla 2
mf

Vla 1
mf



Preview File Only

I

90

Vln 1
f

Vln 2
f

Vln 3
f

Vln 4/
Vla 2
f

Vla 1
f

93

Vln 1
Vln 2
Vln 3
Vln 4/
Vla 2
Vla 1

mp mp mp mp mp

3 3 3 3 3

Preview File Only

96

Vln 1
Vln 2
Vln 3
Vln 4/
Vla 2
Vla 1

p p p p p

3 3 3 3 3

Preview File Only

99

Vln 1 mp

Vln 2 mp p pp

Vln 3 mp

Vln 4/
Vla 2 mp

Vla 1 mp p

102

Vln 1 p pp

Vln 2

Vln 3 p

Vln 4/
Vla 2 p pp

Vla 1 pp

J Slower
q = 76

105 (solo)

Vc 1
mf (3) (3) p mf (3) p

Vc 2
mf p mf p

109

Vc 1
mf mf (3) f p mf

Vc 2
mf mf f mf

114

Vc 1
mf (3) mp mp mf (3) mp

Vc 2
mp mf mp

119

Vc 1
mf (3) (3) (3) mf f

Vc 2
mf f

K

124

Vc 1
mf (3)

Vc 2
mf (3)

129

Vc 1

Vc 2

mf

mf

mp

135

Vc 1

Vc 2

mp

mp

mp

141

Vc 1

Vc 2

mp

mp

mp

145

Vc 1

Vc 2

mp

p

pp

[Allow time for page turn]

L

h = 52

150

Vla 1 & 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

Db.

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

(*tutti*)

3 3 3 3

Double bar lines on the left side of the system.

155

Vla 1 & 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

Db.

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

3 3 3 3

Double bar lines on the left side of the system.

160

M

Vla 1 & 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

Db.

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

3 3 3

Double bar lines on the left side of the system.

165

Vla 1 & 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

Db.

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

170

Vla 1 & 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

Db.

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

175

Vla 1 & 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

Db.

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

180 **N** q = 76 h = 60

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc 1

Vc 2

(solo) f 3 3 p

(solo) f

Preview File Only

183

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mf

f

mf

6 5

0

188

Musical score for measures 188-192. The score is for a string ensemble with four violins (Vln 1-4) and two violas (Vla 1-2). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 188 starts with a forte (f) dynamic. Measures 189-190 show a crescendo. Measures 191-192 are marked mezzo-forte (mf). A double bar line is present at the end of measure 192.



193

Musical score for measures 193-197. The score is for a string ensemble with four violins (Vln 1-4) and two violas (Vla 1-2). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 193 starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measures 194-195 show a crescendo. Measures 196-197 are marked mezzo-forte (mf). A double bar line is present at the end of measure 197.

198

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mf



203

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mf

P

208

Musical score for measures 208-212. The score includes staves for Violins 1-4, Violas 1-2, and Cellos 1-2. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked $q = 76$. The time signature changes from 6/8 to 5/4. Dynamics include f and mf . A large blue watermark "Preview File Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.



Q

213

$q = 76$

$h = 60$

Musical score for measures 213-217. The score includes staves for Violins 1-4, Violas 1-2, and Cellos 1-2. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked $q = 76$. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 to 2/2. Dynamics include mf . A large blue watermark "Preview File Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

217

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mf

mf



222

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mp

mp

5

227

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mp

mp

5

232

R

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 1

Vla 2

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

5

5

237

Musical score for Violins 1-4, Violas 1-2, and Violas 1-2. The score is in 5/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as $q = 76$. The dynamics range from f (forte) to mp (mezzo-piano). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingerings (3, 5). A large blue watermark "Preview File Only" is overlaid on the score.

Violin 1 (Vln 1): mp

Violin 2 (Vln 2): mp

Violin 3 (Vln 3): mp

Violin 4 (Vln 4): mp

Viola 1 (Vla 1): mp

Viola 2 (Vla 2): mp

Violoncello 1 (Vc 1): f

Violoncello 2 (Vc 2): f

Musical score for measures 242-246. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln 1), Violin 2 (Vln 2), Violin 3 (Vln 3), Violin 4 (Vln 4), Viola 1 (Vla 1), Viola 2 (Vla 2), Violoncello 1 (Vc 1), and Violoncello 2 (Vc 2). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *(h = 60)*. Technical markings include a 5-fingered scale in Vln 2 and Vln 4, and a 3-fingered scale in Vla 2. A large blue watermark "Preview file Only" is overlaid on the score.



Musical score for measures 247-251. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln 1), Violin 2 (Vln 2), Violin 3 (Vln 3), Violin 4 (Vln 4), Viola 1 (Vla 1), Viola 2 (Vla 2), Violoncello 1 (Vc 1), and Violoncello 2 (Vc 2). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Dynamics include *p* (piano). Technical markings include 5-fingered scales in Vln 3 and Vla 1, and 3-fingered scales in Vln 4 and Vla 1. A large blue watermark "Preview file Only" is overlaid on the score.