

Janet Oates

2020

Five ways to go

String quartet in 5 or 6 movements

Total duration c.4 minutes



A seemingly solid object, or stable relationship, can easily disappear. These miniatures explore different synonyms, phrases or methods for something vanishing.

Performance notes

Introduction: IT SEEMED SOLID ENOUGH

- Duration about 10"
- The performance of this section, on which all subsequent sections are based, is optional.

No.1: FADE AWAY

- Duration about 20" plus silence afterwards

No.2: DELIQUESCE

- Duration about 1'10"
- The ossia notes are hummed or whistled; pitch is very approximate. Performers may choose to switch between humming and whistling for subsequent notes. It should always be *piano*.
- The half-flat/sharp signs with up and down arrows indicate to vary the pitch slightly during that note – for about the duration that the symbols cover rather than a full bar: e.g. violin 1 bar 17: the wavering should last *about* a minim.

No.3: MOULDER

- Duration: about 6"
- Cross-head notes: knock on the wooden body of your instrument – keeping the same *forte* dynamic if possible.
- The section starts precisely together, but then each player accelerates in their own time, tumbling down separately. The time needed for changing to *pizz* and for the knocking may further disrupt the tempo.

No.4: DISSOLVE

- Duration somewhat over 60"
- The ricochet strokes will determine the comfortable tempo for each individual player (within a presto parameter).
- Once you've all started together, you'll be uncoordinated, especially after detuning. Viola entry in bar 4, cello in bar 6, and Violin entries in bar 10 will be approximately placed as the va and Vc are unlikely to be coordinated as on the score.
- Some bars do not 'add up' correctly, as there's no need due to the non-coordination.
- The end of bar 10 is a gathering point: wait until the va and Vc have finished the section; allow a brief pause; enter together for bar 11, again thereafter picking a tempo comfortable for the individual players, uncoordinated.
- The repeated 'pizz: detune' phrases will come out of tempo; take the time you need to tune the open string down, somewhere between a semitone and a minor third. You may take fewer or more than 6 quavers, and they do not have to be regular quavers. Then return to tempo.
- Notes played after detunings are played as if on the original tuning (and thus will sound lower than written)
- There should be no need to re-tune before the final movement.

No.5: LEAVE JUST A NOTE ON THE KITCHEN TABLE

- Duration about 30" – though the tempo may be slower if the group prefers.

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Optional introduction: It seemed solid enough

♩. = 120 *leggiero*

Musical score for the optional introduction, featuring Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The score is in 15/8 time and begins with a tempo marking of ♩. = 120 *leggiero*. The dynamics are marked *mf* for all instruments. The Viola and Violoncello parts include *pizz.* (pizzicato) markings. The score consists of two measures.

senza rit, senza dim.

Musical score for the main section, featuring Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score is in 15/8 time and begins with a triplet marking (3) over the first measure of the Violin 1 part. The dynamics are marked *mf* for all instruments. The Viola and Violoncello parts include *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *arco (leggiero)* (arco, *leggiero*) markings. The score consists of two measures.

1. Fade away

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♩. = 90

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 1-6. The score is in 6/8 time. Violin 1 starts with a *p* dynamic. Violin 2 starts with a *p* dynamic and includes *pizz.* and *arco* markings. Viola starts with a *p* dynamic and includes a *pizz.* marking. Violoncello starts with a *p* dynamic and includes a *pp* dynamic marking.

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 7-10. The score is in 6/8 time. Violin 1 starts with a *pp* dynamic. Violin 2 starts with a *pp* dynamic and includes a *ppp* dynamic marking. Viola starts with a *pp* dynamic and includes a *pizz.* marking. Violoncello starts with an *arco* marking.

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 11-14. The score is in 6/8 time. Violin 1 starts with a *ppp* dynamic. Violin 2 starts with a *ppp* dynamic. Viola and Violoncello start with a *ppp* dynamic. The score ends with a double bar line.

2. Deliquescce

half-flat/sharps with arrows:
gently move in and out of pitch for that bar or part of the bar.

♩. = 90

Violin 1
hum or whistle - any octave, pitch approximate
p

Violin 2
hum or whistle - any octave, pitch approximate
p

Viola
hum or whistle - any octave, pitch approximate
p
arco - legato
mf
LH pizz.

Violoncello
arco - legato
mf
LH pizz.
a punta
mp

8

Vln. 1 arco - legato *mp* LH pizz.

Vln. 2 arco - legato *mp* LH pizz.

Vla. a punta *mp* LH pizz.

Vc. hum or whistle - any octave, pitch approximate *p* LH pizz.

14

Vln. 1 a punta *p* LH pizz. *mp* *p*

Vln. 2 a punta *p* LH pizz. *mp* *p*

Vla. *p* LH pizz. *mp* *pp*

Vc. *p* LH pizz. *mp* *p*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet, measures 8 through 14. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 8-13) features four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Violin 1 and 2 play arco-legato lines with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, while the left hand plays pizzicato. The Viola and Violoncello parts include 'a punta' (pointed bow) techniques and a 'hum or whistle' instruction. The second system (measures 14) continues the same parts with dynamic markings ranging from piano (*p*) to pianissimo (*pp*). The Viola part includes a triplet in measure 14. The Violoncello part features a triplet in measure 14. The score is written in treble clef for Violins and Viola, and bass clef for the Violoncello. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

3. Moulder.

Begin together, then allow your individual accelerandos to dis-coordinate you.
Crosshead notes: knock on wood (body of your instrument): you can come out of tempo to do this.

♩ = 120

Violin 1
f
accel.
2

Violin 2
f
4 2 4

Viola
pizz.
f
2 2

Violoncello
f
pizz.

4: Dissolve

in free time, only loosely coordinated with each other.

Presto

Violin 1 *ric.* *mp* *etc.*

Violin 2 *ric.* *mp* *etc.*

Viola *ric.* *mp* *etc.*

Violoncello *ric.* *mp* *etc.*

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Each staff begins with a rest followed by a series of notes. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Above the notes, there are markings for 'ric.' (ritardando) and 'etc.' (etcetera), along with 'V' (Violino) markings. The dynamic marking 'mp' (mezzo-piano) is placed below the first few notes of each staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

Vln. 1 ²

Vln. 2 *pizz. : detune* *0* *(see note)* *arco*

Vla.

Vc.

The second system of the musical score continues with four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. The Vln. 1 staff starts with a '2' above the first note. The Vln. 2 staff has a marking 'pizz. : detune 0 (see note) arco' above it, indicating a change in playing technique. The other staves continue with similar rhythmic patterns as in the first system. The dynamic marking 'mp' is not explicitly shown in this system, but the overall intensity remains consistent.

3

pizz. : detune (see note) arco ric. V

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla.

Vc.

4

pizz. : detune 0 arco V

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf* pizz. : detune (see note) 0

Vla.

Vc.

5

pizz. : detune 0 arco V

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 arco ric. *mp* *mf* pizz. : detune further V

Vla. *mf*

Vc.

6

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pizz. : detune further

arco

mp

mf

pizz. : detune

pizz. : detune (see note) 0

mp

7

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pizz. : detune further

arco

mf

p

arco

mf

p

mp

p pizz. : detune further

8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

p

pizz. : detune further

arco

mp

f

arco

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *pizz. : detune further* *arco* *mp*

Vc. *pizz. : detune* *arco* *mp*

gathering point:
wait until all are silent
then start together at bar 11
(though tempo is thereafter free)

10

Vln. 1 *pizz. : detune* *mp*

Vln. 2 *pizz. : detune further* *mp*

Vla.

Vc.

11

Vln. 1 *arco* *p*

Vln. 2 *arco* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

5: Leave just a note on the kitchen table

♩ = 80
 senza vib. sul tasto

Violin 1
mp

Violin 2
 senza vib. sul tasto
pp

Viola
 arco sul pont
pp

Violoncello
 senza vib. sul tasto
pp

6

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
pp

Vla.

Vc.

pp *sul G*