

Gwyneth Walker

The Viola Speaks

for Viola solo and String Ensemble

“Rhythmic Conversation”

“Lyrical Conversation”

“Enjoying the Intervals”

“Moment of Finality”

Program Notes

Duration: 10 minutes

The Viola Speaks is a set of four short movements for solo viola and string ensemble. It is envisioned that the Violist will lead (conduct) the other players from the stage. And thus, in the *lead role*, the viola *speaks* as a guide.

In addition, the *speaking* takes the form of conversation, exchanging musical material between soloist and ensemble. The back-and-forth discussions are rhythmic (in the first movement) and lyrical (second movement).

In the third movement, the soloist leads the ensemble in an exploration of intervals – first the seconds, then the thirds. Much delight is taken in focusing on one interval, and then the next. At the end, the soloist enjoys settling into a *peaceful second*.

“A Moment of Finality” is energetic and forceful. Abrasive chords punctuate the music. This movement is an exclamation point to the entire suite!

The Viola Speaks

for Viola Solo and String Ensemble

Gwyneth Walker

1. Rhythmic Conversation

Energetic ♩ = 132
as touches of rhythm

Viola Solo

p

pizz.

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

5

arco

Solo

p

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

9 **A** *energetic descent*

Solo *mf*

Vln. 1 *mf* *rolled pizz.*

Vln. 2 *mf* *rolled pizz.*

Vla. *mf* *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *mf* *rolled pizz.* *arco*

Cb. *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

12

Solo

Vln. 1 *arco*

Vln. 2 *arco*

Vla. *arco*

Vlc. *rolled pizz.*

Cb. *pizz.*

15 **B** *jagged*

Solo *jagged*

Vln. 1 *jagged*

Vln. 2 *jagged*

Vla. *jagged*

Vlc. *arco, jagged*

Cb. *arco, jagged*

19

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

23 C

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

cresc. poco a poco

28 D

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

(cresc. poco a poco)

(cresc. poco a poco)

f

f

f

f

E Flowing

33

Solo *mf*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Cb. *p*

pizz.

38

Solo

Vln. 1 *simile*

Vln. 2 *simile*

Vla. *simile*

Vlc. *simile*

Cb. *arco* *pizz.*

43

F

Solo *(mf)*

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *arco* *mf*

62

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p *f*

66

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

f *jagged*

(f) *jagged*

70

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

90 (accel.) **J**

Solo (cresc.)

Vln. 1 (cresc.)

Vln. 2 (cresc.)

Vla. (cresc.)

Vlc. (cresc.)

Cb. (cresc.)

94 (accel.)

Solo (cresc.)

Vln. 1 (cresc.)

Vln. 2 (cresc.)

Vla. (cresc.)

Vlc. (cresc.)

Cb. (cresc.)

98 (accel.) **K** Quickly

Solo *f*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Cb. *f*

2. Lyrical Conversation

Freely, fragments of introduction

lightly *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

Solo *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

6 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* **With motion** ♩ = 132

Solo *p* *mf* *non dim.*

Vln. 1 *pizz.* *p*

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

11 *p* *mf cantabile* **A** *arco, lightly*

Vln. 1 *arco, lightly*

Vln. 2 *arco, lightly*

Vla. *arco, lightly*

Vlc.

Cb.

The musical score is for a piece titled '2. Lyrical Conversation'. It begins with a solo section for the Viola, marked 'Freely, fragments of introduction'. The tempo and dynamics are indicated as 'lightly', 'rit.', 'a tempo', 'rit.', and 'a tempo' respectively. The dynamics are marked as *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. A double bar line is followed by a section starting at measure 6, marked 'rit.', 'a tempo', 'rit.', and 'With motion' with a tempo marking of ♩ = 132. The dynamics are *p*, *mf*, and *non dim.*. This section includes staves for Solo, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Cb., with 'pizz.' and *p* markings for the strings. A second double bar line is followed by a section starting at measure 11, marked 'p', 'mf cantabile', and 'A'. This section includes staves for Solo, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Cb., with 'arco, lightly' markings for the strings.

B

17

Solo

Vln. 1 *pizz.* *arco* *rolled pizz.*

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *arco* *rolled pizz.*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *rolled pizz.*

Cb.

23

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *arco, lightly*

Cb.

28

C

Solo

Vln. 1 *arco* *mf cantabile*

Vln. 2 *arco* *mf cantabile*

Vla. *arco* *mf cantabile*

Vlc. *mf cantabile*

Cb. *arco* *mf cantabile*

50 E

Solo (mf) 3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb. pizz.

55

at the tip, gentle tremoli

p

at the tip, gentle tremoli

p

Solo 3

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla.

Vlc. 3

Cb. 3

60 F

Solo

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf* arco

Vlc. 3

Cb. arco

65

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

70

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

75

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

H

rolled pizz.

arco

pizz.

80

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

85 **I** rit. and fade to end

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mf

mp

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

90

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

pp

very lightly, feathery

Hold pose

3. Enjoying the Intervals (Seconds and Thirds)

Quickly, with joy ♩ = 160
gently tap instr., to set the tempo for this movement

The musical score is divided into three systems, each starting with a double bar line and a measure number (7, 12, and 17 respectively). The Solo part is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Cb.) are in their respective clefs. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *mf*. Articulations include *arco*, *rolled pizz.*, and *playfully*. A section marked 'A' begins at measure 7. The score concludes with a double bar line at measure 17.

17

Solo

Vln. 1 *(mf)*

Vln. 2 *(mf)*
pizz.

Vla. *(mf)*
pizz.

Vlc. *(mf)*
pizz.

Cb. *(mf)*

rolled

p



22

C

Solo *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*
arco

Vlc. *mf*
arco

Cb. *mf*



27

Solo

Vln. 1 *rolled pizz.*

Vln. 2 *rolled pizz.*

Vla. *arco, div.* *unis.*

Vlc.

Cb.

D

32

Solo

Vln. 1 *arco*

Vln. 2 *arco*

Vla. *div.* *pizz., unis.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

Cb. *pizz.*

37

Solo

Vln. 1 *rolled pizz.* *arco*

Vln. 2 *rolled pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *rolled* *arco*

Vlc. *rolled* *arco*

Cb. *arco*

rit.

p

42

[The Violist hears and enjoys the 3rds] **E** At a peaceful tempo $\text{♩} = 60$

Solo *p*

Vln. 1 *pp* *sul tasto* *silvery tone, shimmering*

Vln. 2 *pp* *sul tasto* *silvery tone, shimmering*

49

Solo

mp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

56

Solo

F

mf

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

pp
sul tasto, silvery tone

Vlc.

pp

Cb.

63

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

69 *rit.* *p*

G Quickly, with joy (as before) ♩ = 160 *mf* = 80

75 *p* *mf*

ord. div. unis. div. unis.

p ord. mf

p ord. div. unis. div. unis. mf rolled pizz.

mf pizz.

mf

81 *rolled pizz. arco*

pizz. pizz. pizz. pizz. pizz.

arco

arco

86 **H**

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

arco

arco

pizz.

91 **I**

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

arco, div.

f

f

f

f

f

96 *scampering*

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

scampering

J

101

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

mf

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

rolled

rolled

106

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

111

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

arco

cresc.

f

p

[peacefully
enjoying the 2nd]

arco

cresc.

f

arco

cresc.

f

arco

cresc.

f

arco

cresc.

f

cresc.

f

4. Moment of Finality

With energy $\text{♩} = 100$

Vln. 1 *div.* *p* *simile*

Vln. 2 *div.* *p* *simile*

Vla. *div.* *p* *simile*

Solo **5** *mf* casual mood **A**

Vln. 1 *unis.* *(p)*

Vln. 2 *unis.* *(p)*

Vla. *unis.* *(p)*

Vlc. *p* *simile* *(p)*

Cb. *p* *simile* *(p)*

Solo **10**

Vln. 1 *mf* *pizz.* *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *mf* *pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *(p)*

Cb. *(p)*

B

15

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

arco

mf

div.

simile

20

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

unis.

C

25

Solo

Vcl.

Cb.

p

on the string

p as a "walking bass"

on the string

p as a "walking bass"

30

Solo *mp*
on the string

Vla. *mp* as a walking bass
pizz.

Vlc. *mp* pizz.

Cb. *mp*

35

D

Solo *mf*
unis.
rolled pizz.

Vln. 1 *mf* rolled pizz. arco

Vln. 2 *mf* rolled pizz. arco

Vla. *mf* arco

Vlc. *mf* arco

Cb. *mf*

40

E

Solo *f*

Vln. 1 *f* div.

Vln. 2 *f* div.

Vla. *f* div.

Vlc. *f*

Cb. *f*

45

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

simile

simile

simile

fp

50

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mf

unis.

56

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

mf

p

mf soulfully

simile

p

simile

(p)

(p)

77

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

div.

unis.

82

I

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

unis.

p

p

p

88

J accel. poco a poco (to K)

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

div.

div.

div.

93 (*accel.*)

Solo
(*cresc.*)

Vln. 1
(*cresc.*)

Vln. 2
(*cresc.*)

Vla.
(*cresc.*)

Vlc.
(*cresc.*)
div.

Cb.
(*cresc.*)

K Quickly

98

Solo
ff

Vln. 1
ff
unis.

Vln. 2
ff
unis.

Vla.
ff

Vlc.
ff
unis.

Cb.
ff

p \rightarrow *ff*

2' | Total: 10'
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New Canaan, Connecticut