

Viola soloist

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

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1. Rhythmic Conversation

Energetic ♩ = 132
as touches of rhythm

p

4 *pizz.* *arco*

9 **A** *energetic descent*
mf

13 *jagged*

16 **B**

20 **C**
p

27 **D**
cresc. poco a poco

The Viola Speaks – Viola Solo

E Flowing

35 *Play*
 (Tutti) *mf*

41 **F**
 (mf)

47

54
 (mf)

59 **G**
 f

63

67 **H** jagged
 (f)

72 *rit.*

Slowly **I** Free tempo, not too slow
 (as a cadenza)

77 *Play*
 (Tutti) p

82

Musical staff 82: Viola solo in 2/5 time, key of D major. Measures 82-85. Includes accents and slurs.

86

accel. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

Musical staff 86: Viola solo in 2/5 time, key of D major. Measures 86-89. Includes accents and slurs.

90

(accel.) **J**

(cresc.)

Musical staff 90: Viola solo in 2/5 time, key of D major. Measures 90-93. Includes accents and slurs.

94

(accel.)

(cresc.)

Musical staff 94: Viola solo in 2/5 time, key of D major. Measures 94-97. Includes accents and slurs.

98

(accel.) **K** Quickly

f

Musical staff 98: Viola solo in 2/5 time, key of D major. Measures 98-101. Includes accents and slurs.

2. Lyrical Conversation

Freely, fragments of introduction

lightly *mf* rit. *p* *mf* rit. *p*

5 *a tempo* *mf* rit. *p* *a tempo* *mf* rit. *non dim.*

9 With motion ♩ = 132 *p* *mf cantabile* **A**

15 **B**

22

27

33 **C** (Vln. 1) *Play*

39 **D**

44

50 **E**

(*mf*) 3

55

59 **F**

63

G With intensity

69 *f*

74 **H**

79

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

91 (rit.) *p* very lightly, feathery *pp* Hold pose

3. Enjoying the Intervals (Seconds and Thirds)

Quickly, with joy ♩ = 160

*gently tap instr.,
to set the tempo for this movement*

p (Vla. enters)

9 **A**

mf playfully

14 **B**

mf

21 **C**

p *mf*

28 **D**

mf

35

mf

40 *rit.* **E** At a peaceful tempo ♩ = 60

p *p*

46

mp

53 **F**

mf

60

68

rit.
p

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

75

p *mf*

80

rolled pizz. *arco*

86

H

93

I

f *scampering*

98

J

103

111

cresc. *f* *p*

[peacefully enjoying the 2nd]

4. Moment of Finality

With energy $\text{♩} = 100$

(Vlns. & Vla.)

Musical staff 1: Measures 1-7. Includes a 3-measure rest and a (Vlc.) instruction.

A

Musical staff 2: Measures 8-12. Includes "Play" and "mf casual mood" markings.

B

Musical staff 3: Measures 13-17. Includes accents and slurs.

Musical staff 4: Measures 18-23. Includes accents and slurs.

C

Musical staff 5: Measures 24-28. Includes "Play", "p", and "V" markings.

Musical staff 6: Measures 29-32. Includes accents and slurs.

D

Musical staff 7: Measures 33-36. Includes accents and slurs.

Musical staff 8: Measures 37-40. Includes accents and slurs.

E

Musical staff 9: Measures 41-45. Includes accents and slurs.

Musical staff 10: Measures 46-50. Includes accents and slurs.

The Viola Speaks – Viola Solo

53 **F**

mf *p*

59 (Vla.) *Play*

mf

65 *Play* **G**

(mf)

70

75 **H**

f

82 **I**

p

86

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

J *accel. poco a poco (to K)*

90

(cresc.)

94 (*accel.*)

(cresc.)

K *Quickly*

98

ff *p* *ff*