

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

BENT SPACE MUSIC

Surface Tension was written for the Stenhammar String Quartet and the Masterclass in Composition at the Collegium for Advanced Study at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden with Anders Hillborg and Steven Stucky.

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for the Stenhammar String Quartet

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Fast, frenetic, aggressive, boiling over ♩=144

ord. -----> sul pont. ord.

Violin 1

pp — *molto* — *f* relentless

ord. -----> sul pont.

Violin 2

pp — *molto* — *f* brutal

ord. -----> sul pont.

Viola

pizz. *f*

arco sul A *pp* — *molto* —

Violoncello

pizz. *f*

5

f relentless

pizz.

arco

(l.h.) arco *mp*

8

9

ord. -----> sul pont. ord.

sul A *pp* — *molto* — *f*

pizz. *f*

ord. -----> sul pont. ord.

ord. -----> sul pont. ord.

molto — *f* relentless

11 *sul pont. ord.*

sffz f

sffz

arco

mp *ff*

pizz.

f *brutal* *ff*

arco (ord.)

pizz.

arco
scratch tone
(approx. pitch)

(ord.)

14

f

ff

f

ord. *sul pont.*

f

ff

f

f *ff*

17

ff

f

ff

arco

pizz.

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

21

f *sizzling* *p* *molto* *sffz* *sffz* *pizz.* *sffz*

24

ord. *ff* *p* *f* *sub. mp* *ord.* *sub. mp* *f* *sub. mp* *f* *pizz.* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f*

27

ff *arco* *ff* *arco* *mf* *mf*

31

Musical score for measures 31-34. The score is written for four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The first two staves play a continuous eighth-note pattern. The third and fourth staves play a pizzicato pattern. The score includes dynamic markings *f* and *ff*, and performance instructions *pizz.* and *arco*. The measure numbers 31, 32, 33, and 34 are indicated at the top of each staff.

35

Musical score for measures 35-36. The score is written for four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The first two staves play a continuous eighth-note pattern. The third and fourth staves play a pizzicato pattern. The score includes dynamic markings *f* and *ff*. The measure numbers 35 and 36 are indicated at the top of each staff.

37

(open strings whenever possible)

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score is written for four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The first two staves play a continuous eighth-note pattern. The third and fourth staves play a pizzicato pattern. The score includes dynamic markings *ff* and *ecstatic!*, and performance instructions *(open strings whenever possible)*. The measure numbers 37, 38, 39, and 40 are indicated at the top of each staff.

39

41

45

49

ff

51

53

Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

55 **56** Frozen, suspended in time $\text{♩} = 132$

pp *ff* *pp* *pp* *f* *f* *sub. mf* *p*

57 *sul A*

pp *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *mp* *mf* "seagull" effect *(mf)* *p* *mf sim.*

60

pp *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *mf* *sim.* *(mf)* *p*

63

pp *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

f *pp* *molto*

mp *p*

mf [*poco accel.*] *rit.*

65 Suddenly, snapped back to reality ♩=144

(f) *ff* *arco*

f *ff* *arco*

pizz. *f* *ff* *arco*

pizz. *f* *ff* *arco*

68

f *ff* *arco*

f *ff* *arco*

pizz. *f* *ff* *arco*

pizz. *f* *ff* *arco*

77

p

p

p

mp

arco (III)

79

f *mf* *ord.* *sul pont.*

81

f *mf* *ord.* *sul pont.* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

85

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

88

ff

ff

ff

ff

90

più ff

p — *molto* — *ord.* — *s.p. ord.*

ff *f sub. mp*

f sub. mp

più ff

più ff

più ff

più ff

92

ff *f sub. mp*

f sub. mp

pizz. *f*

pizz. *f*

93

f

f

ff

ff

96

mp agile *molto* *f*

p *pp* *p* *molto*

f *pp* *molto* *f* *pp* *molto*

arco *arco sul A* *arco*

mf [*poco accel.* ----- *rit.* -----]

98

(*bow freely*)

f *like a siren* *like a siren* *like a siren* *like a siren*

101

f *like a siren* *like a siren* *like a siren* *like a siren*

(bow freely)

f

sirens

ff

ff

108

111

f

f

[illegible]

122

ff

124

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

pp *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff*

127

ff

ff

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

129

like ascending sirens

like ascending sirens

131

fff

fff

fff

(bow freely, smooth glissando)

(as high as possible)

fff

[*accel.* -----]

133 Suddenly slower, abrupt, violent $\text{♩} = 132$

pizz.

ffz

pizz.

ffz

pizz.

ffz

pizz.

ffz

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

137

arco pizz. ϕ

arco pizz. ϕ

arco pizz. ϕ

arco pizz. ϕ

141

G.P. 143 Like water droplets ($\text{half note} = 132$) (pizz.)

p vib. *sim.*

(pizz.) *p vib.*

(pizz.) *p vib.*

145

sim. *sim.*

sim.

149

149

mp

mp

arco with the side of the bow, col legno and half bow hair, ricochet

f *p*

pizz. 3

arco sim.

f *p*

mp vib.

sim.

152

mf

3 3 3

arco sim.

f *p*

pizz. 3

mf

mf

156 Unlike any water droplets on this planet

155

f

f

3 3 3

f

f

158

Musical score for measures 158-160. The score is written for four staves. The first staff (treble clef) contains a series of eighth notes. The second staff (treble clef) contains a series of eighth notes with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The third staff (bass clef) contains a series of eighth notes with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a series of eighth notes. The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp* and *arco*.

161

Musical score for measures 161-163. The score is written for four staves. The first staff (treble clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *pp* and *f*. The second staff (treble clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *ff* and *pp*. The third staff (bass clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *pp* and *ff*. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *pp* and *f*. The score includes performance instructions such as *arco*, *pizz.*, and *pp*.

164

Musical score for measures 164-166. The score is written for four staves. The first staff (treble clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *pp* and *f*. The second staff (treble clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *pp* and *f*. The third staff (bass clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *f* and *pp*. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a series of eighth notes with dynamic markings *f* and *pp*. The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp* and *f*.

170 Playfully tense ($\text{♩}=132$)
pizz.

175

This musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains eighth and sixteenth notes, with triplets indicated by a '3' and a bracket. The second staff is also in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp, featuring half notes and quarter notes, some with slurs. The third staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp, showing half notes and quarter notes, with a triplet marked '3'. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp, containing eighth notes and quarter notes, some with slurs. A large, faint watermark 'Y' is visible in the background.

178

Measures 178-180 of the musical score. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measures 178 and 179 feature triplets in the Treble 1 and Bass 1 staves. Measure 180 continues the triplet patterns in the Treble 1 and Bass 1 staves, while the Treble 2 and Bass 2 staves have rests.

181

Measures 181-183 of the musical score. Measure 181 features a quintuplet in the Treble 1 staff. Measures 182 and 183 continue the quintuplet pattern in the Treble 1 staff. Measure 183 also features a triplet in the Treble 2 staff. The Bass 1 and Bass 2 staves have rests in measures 182 and 183.

184

Measures 184-186 of the musical score. Measures 184 and 185 feature a quintuplet in the Treble 1 staff. Measure 186 continues the quintuplet pattern in the Treble 1 staff. The Treble 2 and Bass 1 staves have rests in measures 184 and 185. Measure 186 features a triplet in the Treble 2 staff. The Bass 2 staff has rests in measures 184 and 185, and a triplet in measure 186.

Musical score for measures 187-191. The score is written for four staves (treble, violin, viola, and bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The music features dynamic markings of *pp*, *f*, and *ff*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked *ff* in the violin part at measure 191. The viola part has a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking at measure 191.

192 Suspended in time, as if played in reverse

Musical score for measures 192-193. The score is written for four staves. The key signature is one sharp. The time signature is 4/4. The music features dynamic markings of *pp*, *f*, and *mp*. A *mf* "seagull" effect is indicated in the bass staff at measure 193. The violin and viola parts have *arco* markings. The bass staff has a *(sul A)* marking.

Musical score for measures 194-195. The score is written for four staves. The key signature is one sharp. The time signature is 4/4. The music features dynamic markings of *pp*, *f*, *p*, and *mf*. A *mf sim.* marking is present in the bass staff at measure 195. The violin and viola parts have *arco* markings. The bass staff has a *(mf)* marking.

molto rit. (♩=60)

197

pp *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *ff*

f *p* *pp* *f* *pp* *molto*

mp *p* *pp* *f* *mp* *p*

mf sim. *(mf)* *p* *mf* [*poco accel.* - - - - - *rit.* - - - - -]

201 Suspended in midair ♩=144

p light, delicate

ff

204

p light, delicate

rit. (♩=120) **207** Slower, more emphatic ♩=132

206

molto 3 3

ff (bow freely)

ff

p *molto* (arco) *ff* (arco) *ff*

rit. 0

208

(♩=100) **213** Suspended in midair ♩=144

211

piùff

sub. p light, delicate

piùff

piùff

214 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 112$

p light, delicate

molto

p *molto*

7

3 3

3 3

216 Slower, devastating $\text{♩} = 126$

ff insistent!

ff insistent!

(arco)

ff insistent!

(arco)

ff insistent!

(bow freely)

ff insistent!

rit. $\text{♩} = 126$ (II, III)

0

6

3 3

3 3

221 Crushed, in disbelief $\text{♩}=100$

Measures 221-225 of the piece "Surface Tension". The score is for four staves (treble and bass clef, with and without a key signature). The tempo is marked $\text{♩}=100$. The music features a series of long, horizontal lines across the staves, indicating a sustained or "dig deep" performance. The dynamics are marked *più ff* (measures 221-224) and *molto* (measures 225-226). A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the first staff in measure 221. A *port.* (portamento) marking is present above the first staff in measure 225.

226 Broken, like a held breath $\text{♩}=120$

Measures 226-228 of the piece "Surface Tension". The score is for four staves. The tempo is marked $\text{♩}=120$. The music features a series of eighth notes across the staves. The dynamics are marked *fff* (measures 226-227) and *p* (measure 228). A *sub.mp* (subito mezzo-piano) marking is present below the first staff in measure 226. A *resolute* marking is present above the first staff in measure 228. A *port.* (portamento) marking is present above the first staff in measure 228.

Measures 229-231 of the piece "Surface Tension". The score is for four staves. The tempo is marked $\text{♩}=120$. The music features a series of eighth notes across the staves. The dynamics are marked *ff* (measures 229-230) and *f* (measure 231). A *resolute* marking is present above the first staff in measure 231. A *port.* (portamento) marking is present above the first staff in measure 231.

231

V

233

p — *molto* — *ff* *sub.p*

ff

p — *molto* — *f*

solo

fp — *f*

(*f*) *explosive*

[illegible]

239

pp < f pp < f

pp < f pp < f

pp < f pp < f

pp < f pp < f

247 **Fleeting, just out of reach** ♩=96

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" by Franz Schubert, featuring four staves (Treble, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time. The score includes dynamic markings (*pp*, *f*), articulation (accents), and performance instructions (*sul A*, *8va*).