

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SOLSTICE

for piano quartet

BENT SPACE MUSIC

Solstice was written for and commissioned by the Garth Newel Piano Quartet.
The commission was made possible by the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program,
with generous funding provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund

Chamber Music America

Published by Bent Space Music:
www.davidbiedenbender.com

Contact the Composer:
davidbiedenbender@gmail.com

© Copyright 2018 by David Biedenbender
International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.
Printed August 2018.

INSTRUMENTATION

Violin
Viola
Violoncello
Piano

PERUSAL COPY

Duration: *ca.* 23:30

- I. Summer – 5:30
- II. Autumn – 8:30
- III. Winter – 6:00
- IV. Spring – 3:30

PROGRAM NOTES

Solstice was written for my friends in the Garth Newel Piano Quartet and for the beautiful place they call home, the Garth Newel Music Center in Bath County in the Allegheny Mountains near Warm Springs, Virginia. The piece is divided into four movements, one for each season—Summer, Autumn, Winter, and Spring—and are ordered as such because I visited Garth Newel in each season beginning in August 2017. The title comes from the solstices, which, along with the equinoxes, divide the seasons. The word *solstice* is derived from the Latin *sol* (sun) and *sistere* (to stand still), because at the solstices, the sun's declination "stands still"; that is, the seasonal movement of the Sun's daily path (as seen from Earth) stops at a northern or southern limit before reversing direction. For me, this idea of "standing still" captures the essence of my experiences visiting Garth Newel: it is in this place—among the mountains and among friends, great music, and incredible food—that I have often found stillness, quiet, peace, and happiness—a respite from the everyday.

Summer begins with an homage to the most incredible cicadas and crickets I've ever heard. A series of warm chords and sweeping melodies introduces much of the musical material for the entire piece. For me, like summer, this music is bright, warm, and full of possibility and excitement.

Autumn is twilight, an ending. It's the end of the summer, the end of the year, the end of warm, sunny days, and the harbinger of winter. This season is my favorite, but it is also filled with bittersweet nostalgia.

Winter is cold, icy, distant, and persistent. The melodic material in this movement is a quotation of and meditation on Charles Ives' *The Unanswered Question*.

Spring is bright again, beginning with rain and eventually returning to a transformed version of the fast, dancing music from *Summer*. I have an affinity for bluegrass and for the traditional fiddling that comes from Appalachia and the mountains surrounding Garth Newel, and this spirit, overflowing with energy and joy, also found its way into this movement.

for the Garth Newel Piano Quartet
This work was made possible by the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program,
with generous funding provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund.

SOLSTICE

for piano quartet

David Biedenbender

I. Summer

Bright ♩ = 104

Musical score for the piano quartet (Violin, Viola, Cello, Piano) in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with the piano playing a sustained note with *sfp*, followed by the strings playing eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings *mp* and *mf*. The second system begins with the piano playing eighth-note patterns with *mf*, followed by the strings. The piano part includes dynamics *sfz* and *p*.

Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.
Perusal copy only.

Continuation of the musical score. The strings play eighth-note patterns with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. The piano part starts with *mf*, followed by *p*, *sfz*, *p*, and *f*. The score is numbered 5 and 7.

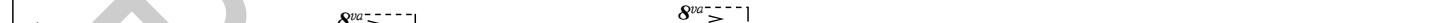
2

Solstice

9

Vln. 

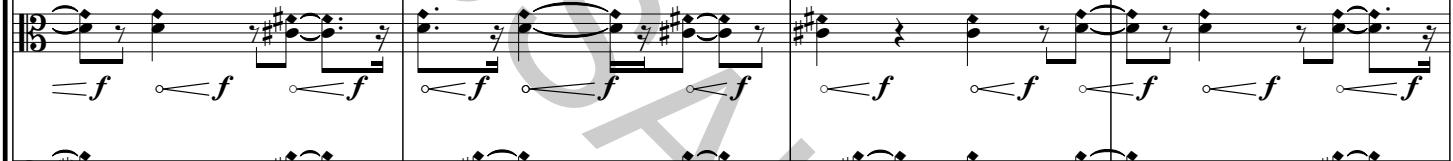
Vla. 

Vc. 

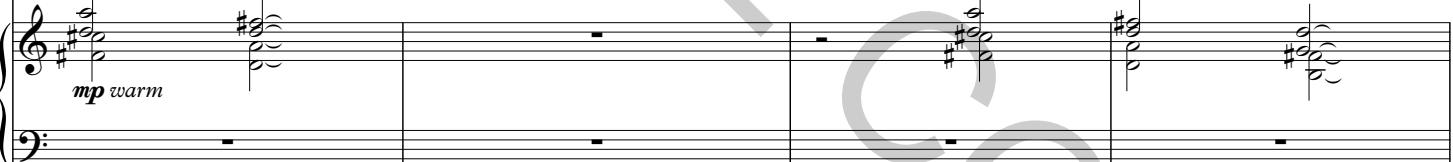
Pno. 

13

Vln. 

Vla. 

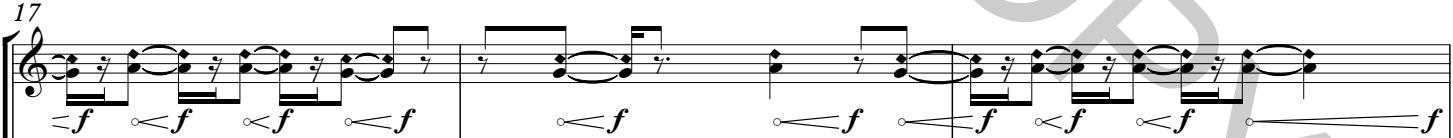
Vc. 

Pno. 

Ped. ^ ^

Ped. ^ ^

17

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

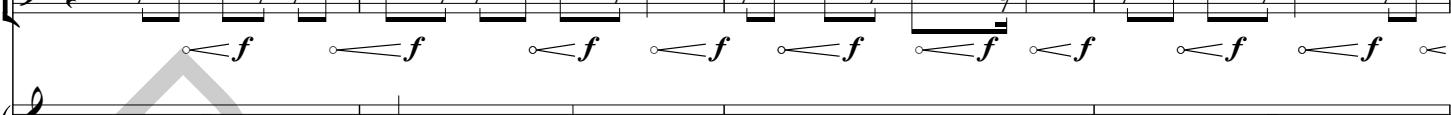
Solstice

20

21

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

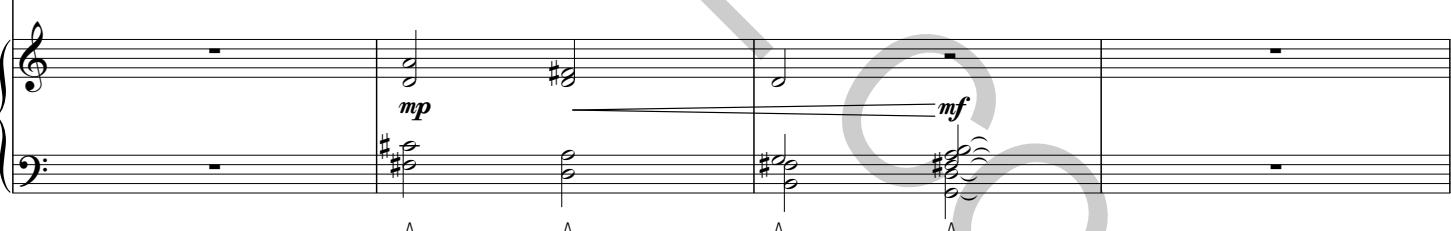
Pno. 

24

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

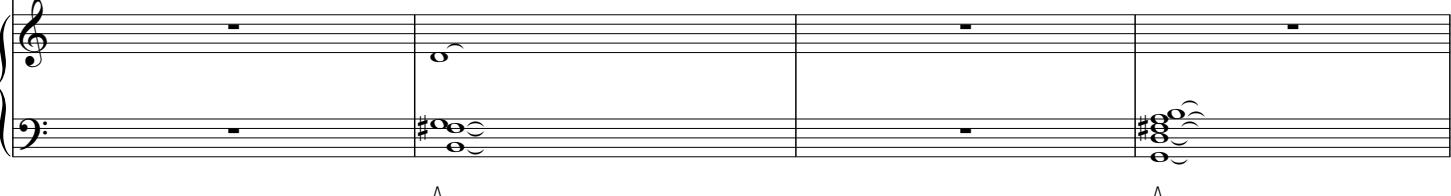
28

29

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

4

32

Solstice

Vln. =f <f <f <f <f <f ff

Vla. <f <f <f <f ff

Vc. =f <f <f ff

Pno. sfz p 3 5

34

35

Vln. mf *warm, rich, full* f mf

Vla. mf *warm, rich, full* f mf

Vc. mf *warm, rich, full* f mf

Pno. ff f ff f

39

Vln. f mf

Vla. f mf

Vc. f mf

Pno. ff f

[*glissandi last for entire duration of note]

Solstice

5

42 (V)

Vln. (V) ff pizz.

Vla. (V) ff mf pizz.

Vc. (V) ff mf pizz.

Pno. (8) ff mp

43

46 arco (V) pizz.

Vln. mf f

Vla. arco (V) mf pizz.

Vc. arco (V) f mf pizz.

51 arco (V) (V) f

Vln. mf ff mf f

Vla. arco (V) ff mf f

Vc. arco (V) ff mf f

Pno. mp ff mf 8va

6

57

Solstice

Vln. pizz. *mf*

Vla. pizz. *mf*

Vc. pizz. *mf*

Vln. *mp* *p*

Vla. *mp* *p*

Vc. *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

Ped.

Perusal copy only.
Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *pp* *p leggiero*

(8)

Solstice

7

69

Vln.

72

Vln.

75

arco

Vln.

Solstice

80

Solstice

Vln.

Vla.

Pno.

mf 3
arc
p playful
p playful *mp*
Ped. ad lib.

Perusal copy only.
Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

Musical score for strings and piano. The score consists of three staves: Violin (Vln.), Cello/Bassoon (Vla.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature changes between measures 83 and 84. Measure 83 starts in A major (no sharps or flats) and ends in E major (one sharp). Measure 84 starts in E major and ends in B major (two sharps). Measure 83 includes dynamic markings *mp* and *f*, and performance instructions *v.v.* and *3*. Measure 84 includes performance instruction *3*.

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, measures 86-87. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vla.), and Piano (Pno.). The Violin part features melodic lines with slurs and grace notes. The Cello part consists of eighth-note patterns. The Piano part has harmonic bass lines and melodic upper voices. Measure 86 starts with a forte dynamic. Measure 87 begins with a piano dynamic. Measure 88 concludes the section.

A musical score page for the Violin (Vla.) part. The page number '89' is in the top left corner. The key signature is B-flat major (two sharps). The time signature is common time (indicated by 'C'). The music consists of two staves of sixteenth-note patterns. The first staff starts with a quarter note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The second staff begins with a sixteenth note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns grouped together.

Solstice

9

92

Vln. *mp*

Vla.

95

Vln.

Vla.

Pno. *p leggiero*

98

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno. *arco pp espress.*

101

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

[*glissandi last for entire duration of note]

10

104

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

105 Solstice

mp — *mf*

107

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

cresc. —

110

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

mf —

mp — *f bold* —

mf

Solstice

113

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

Perusal copy only
Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

116

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

119

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

12

Solstice

122

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

125

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

127

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

Solstice

13

129

131

133

Solstice

135

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

136

ff

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

137

ff 6 6 6 6

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

139

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

ff

Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

Perusal copy only.

Solstice

15

Musical score for Solstice, page 15, measures 141-142. The score includes parts for Vln. (Violin), Vla. (Viola), Vc. (Cello), and Pno. (Piano). The tempo is marked 141. The instrumentation consists of two violins, one viola, one cello, and a piano. The music features complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings such as *fff*. Measure 141 starts with eighth-note patterns on the violins, followed by sixteenth-note patterns on the violins and cello. Measure 142 continues with sixteenth-note patterns on the violins and cello, and eighth-note patterns on the viola and piano.

II. Autumn

Steadily, unhurried ♩ = 66

no vib.

Musical score for strings and piano, page 10, measures 1-4. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Cello/Bassoon (Vla.), and Piano (Pno.). The Violin and Cello/Bassoon parts are in 4/4 time, while the Piano part is in 9/4 time. The Violin and Cello/Bassoon parts play sustained notes at dynamic *pp* (pianissimo) with "no vib." (no vibrato). The Piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*. Measure 4 concludes with a dynamic of *pp*.

26

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 7. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with dynamics *p*, *pp*, *3*, *5*, *3*, and *mp*. The strings play sustained notes with dynamics *pp*, *mp*, and *no vib.*. The score is marked with measure numbers 6 and 7.

(no vib.) -

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 11. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Violins, Violas, and Cellos play sustained notes with dynamic markings "no vib." and "mf". The Piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with dynamic markings "mf" and "vib.". Measure numbers 11 and 12 are indicated above the staves.

Solstice

17

16

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

17

f

c

ff

c

20

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

p

mp

pp

pp delicate

mp

pp

24

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

p

mp

espress.

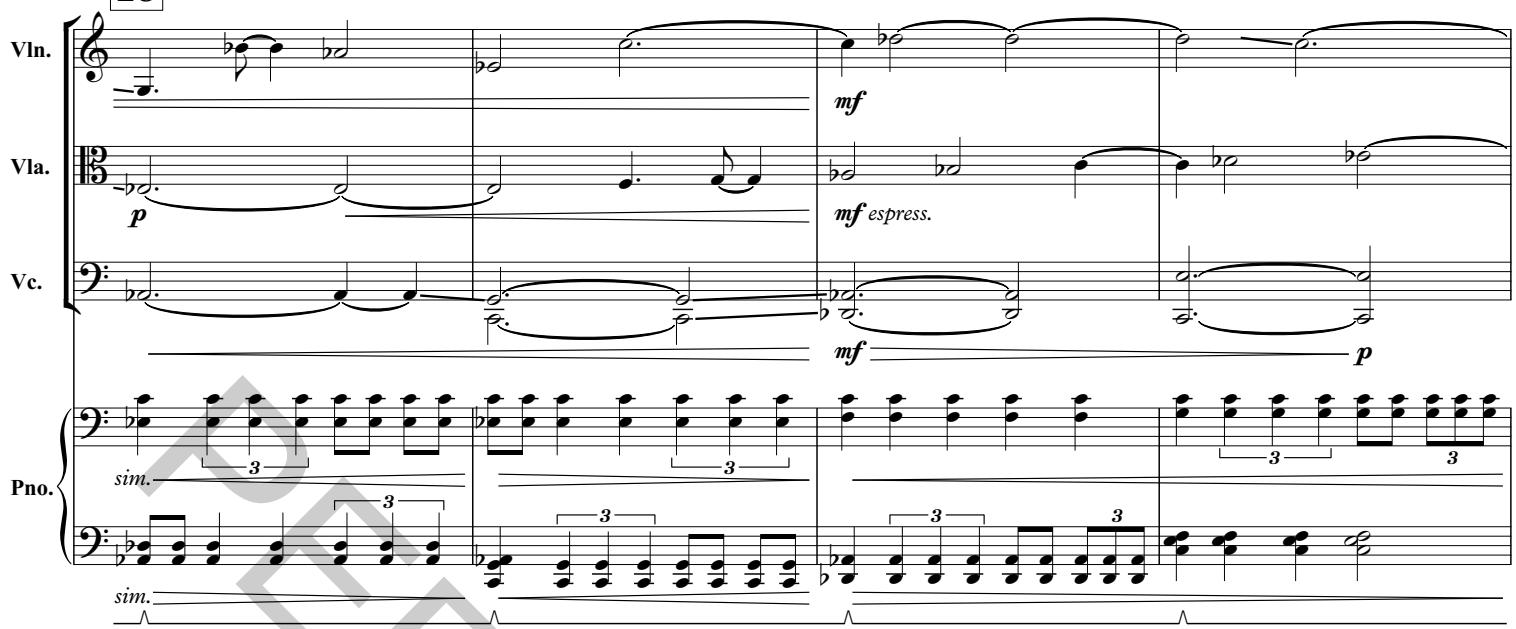
(mp)

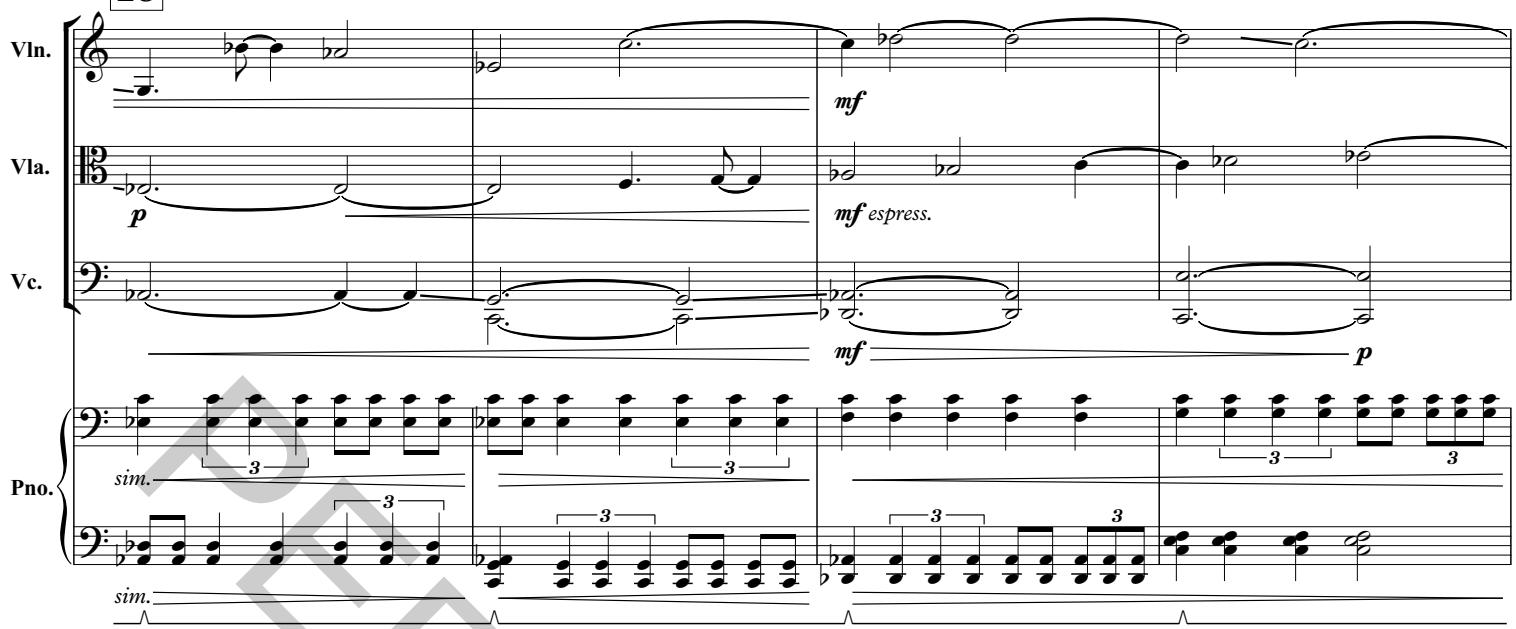
pp

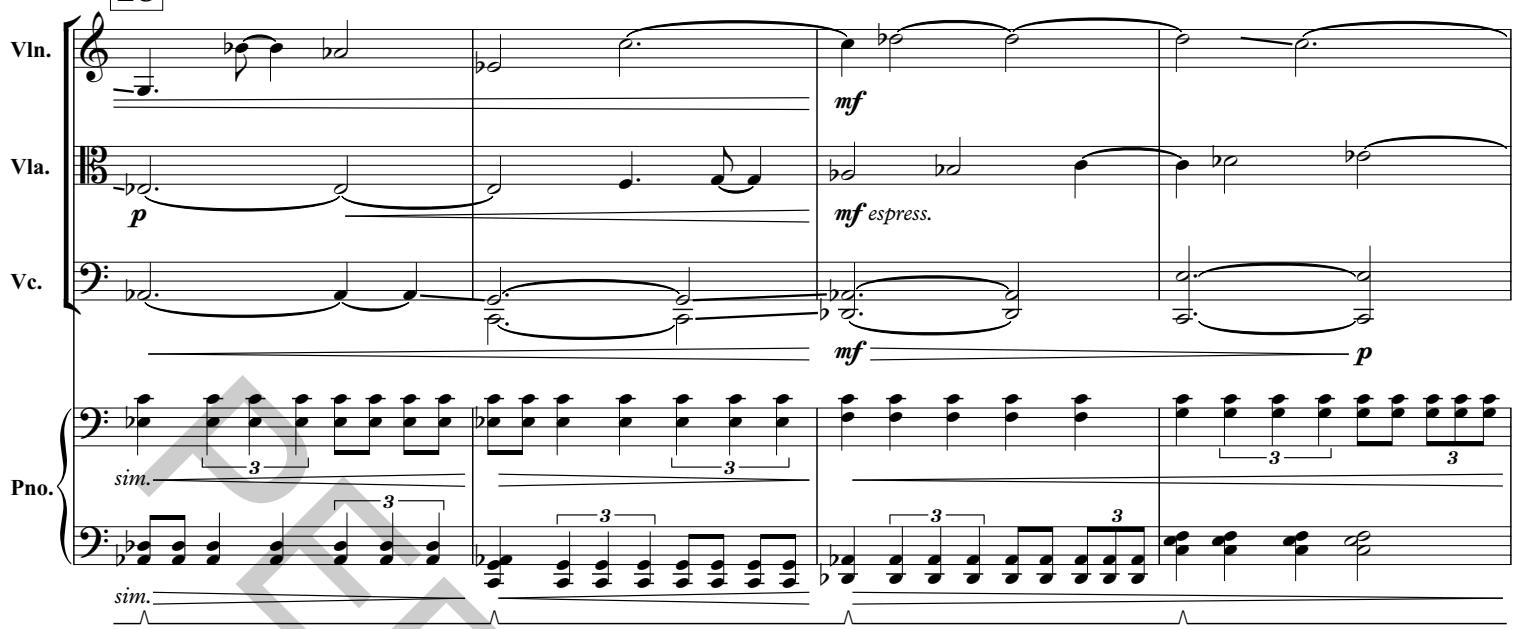
mp

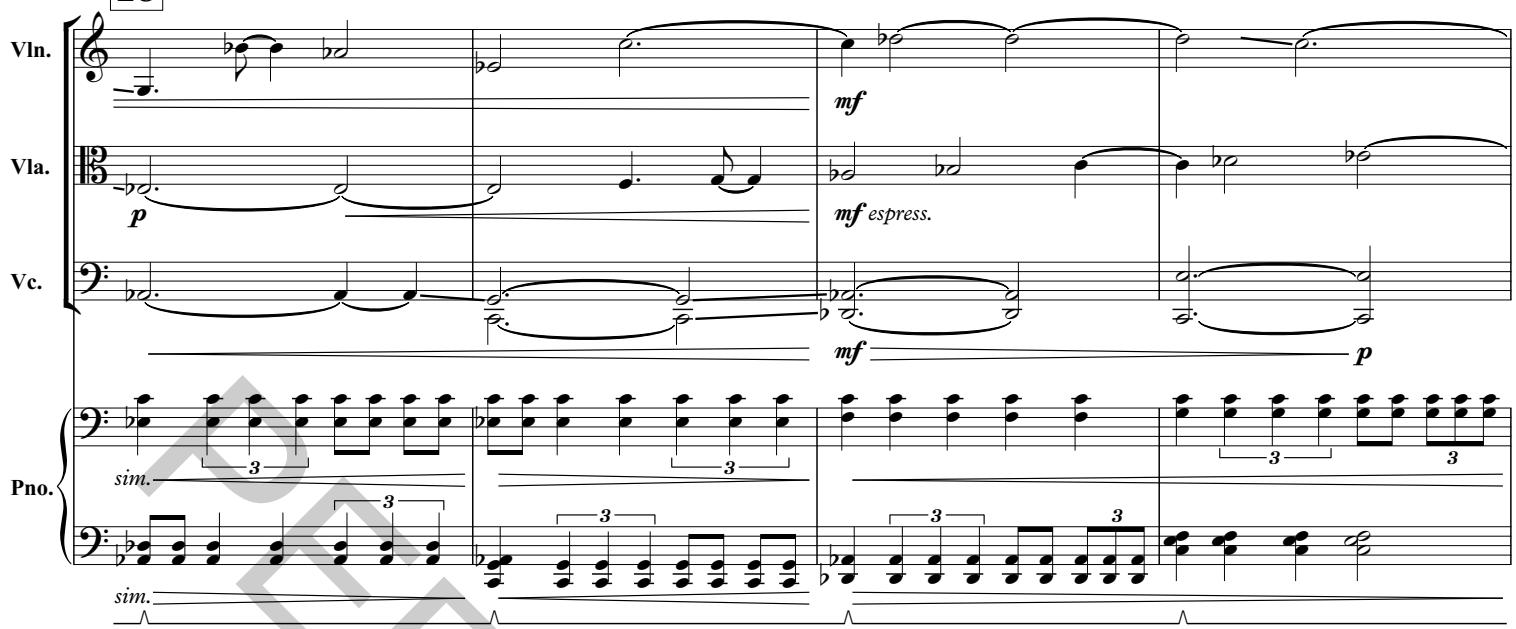
pp

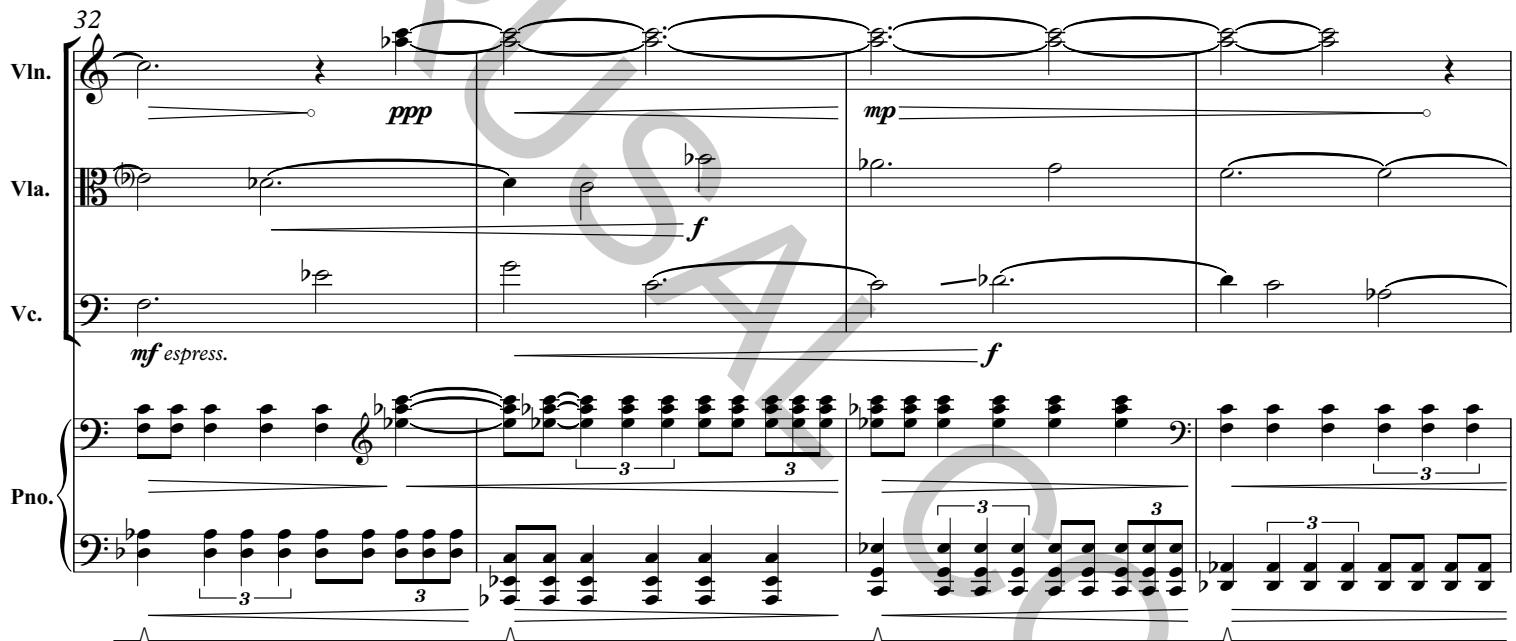
Solstice

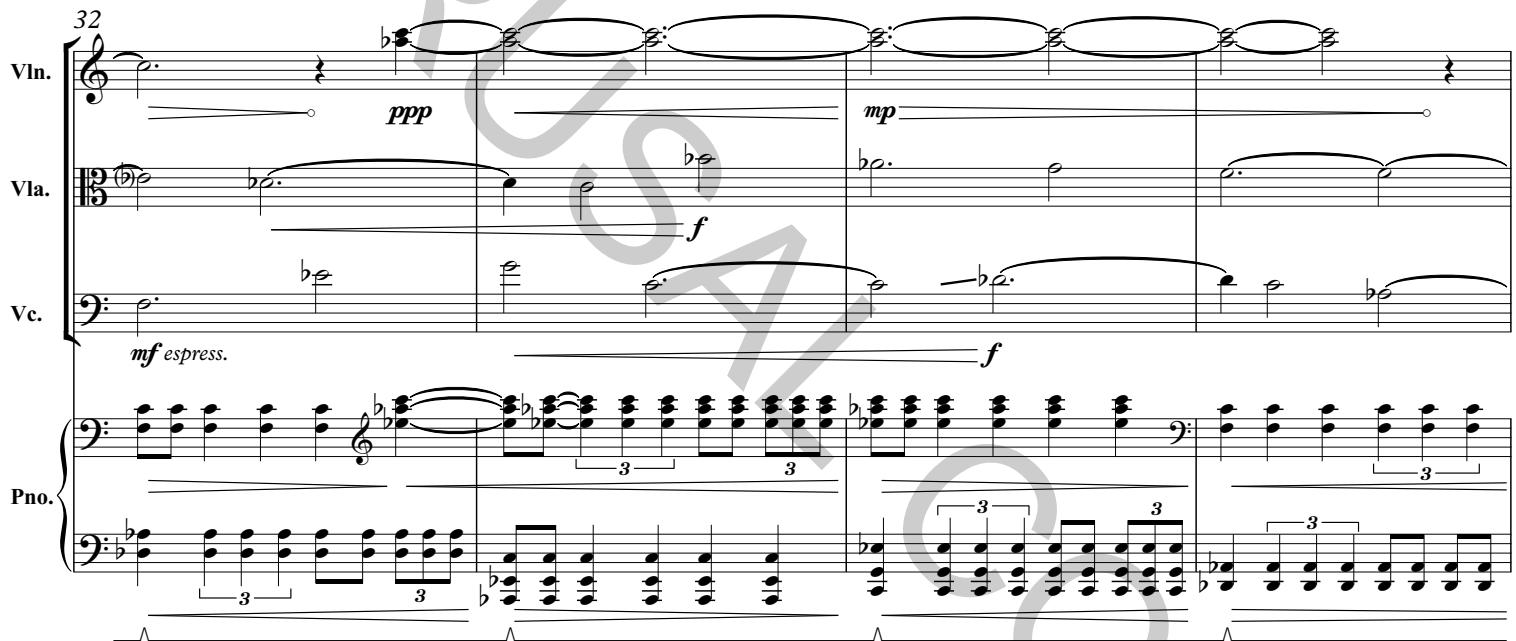
Vln. 

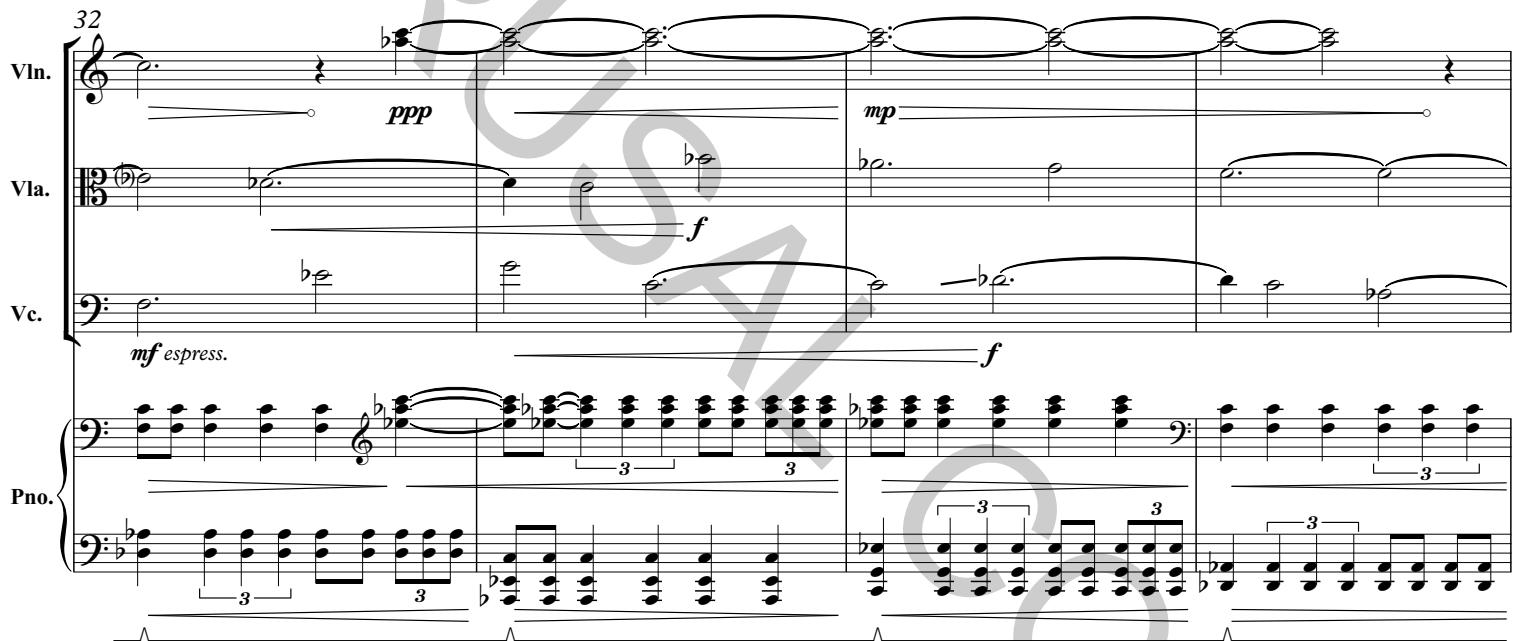
Vla. 

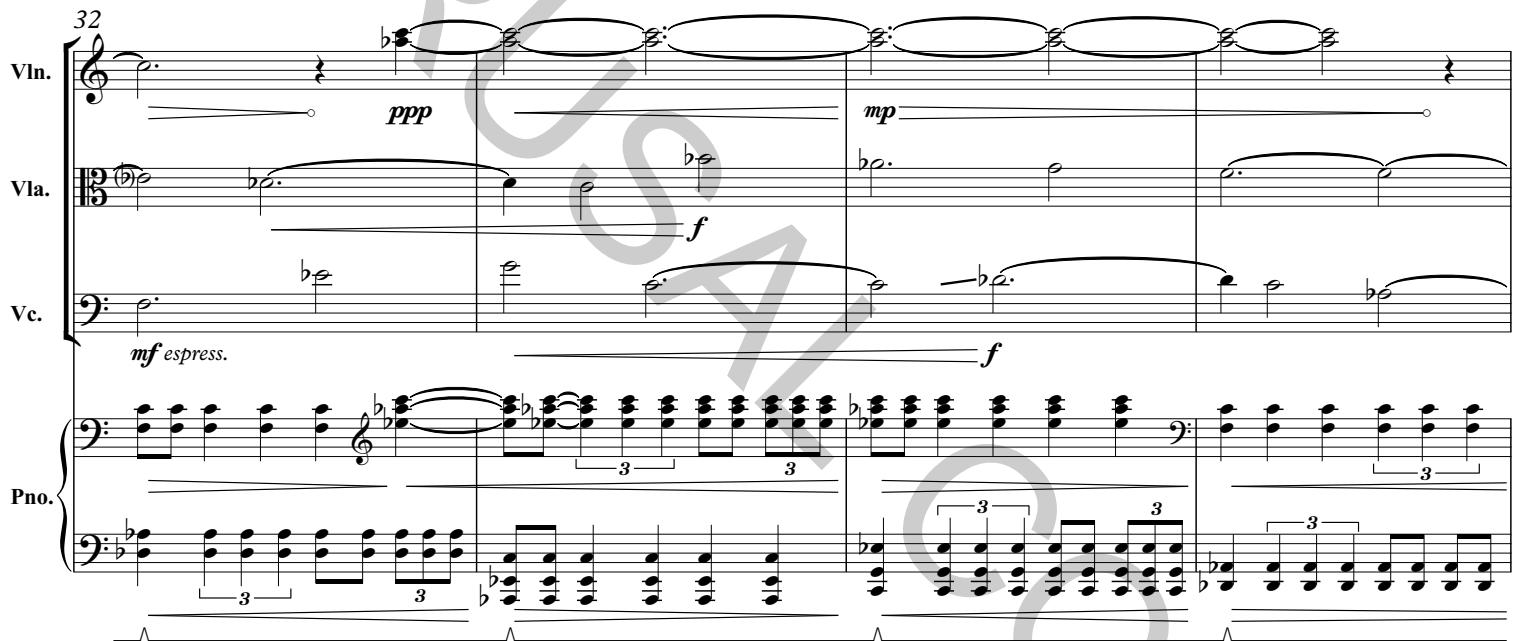
Vc. 

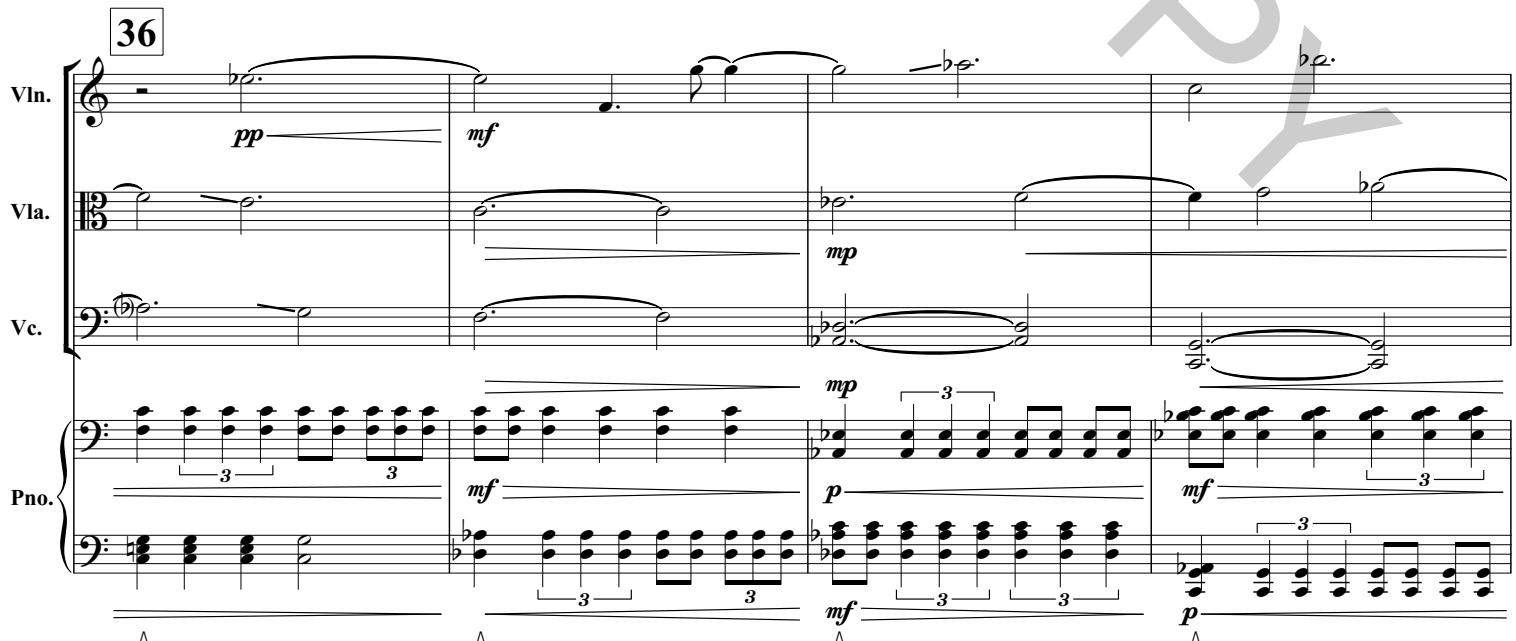
Pno. 

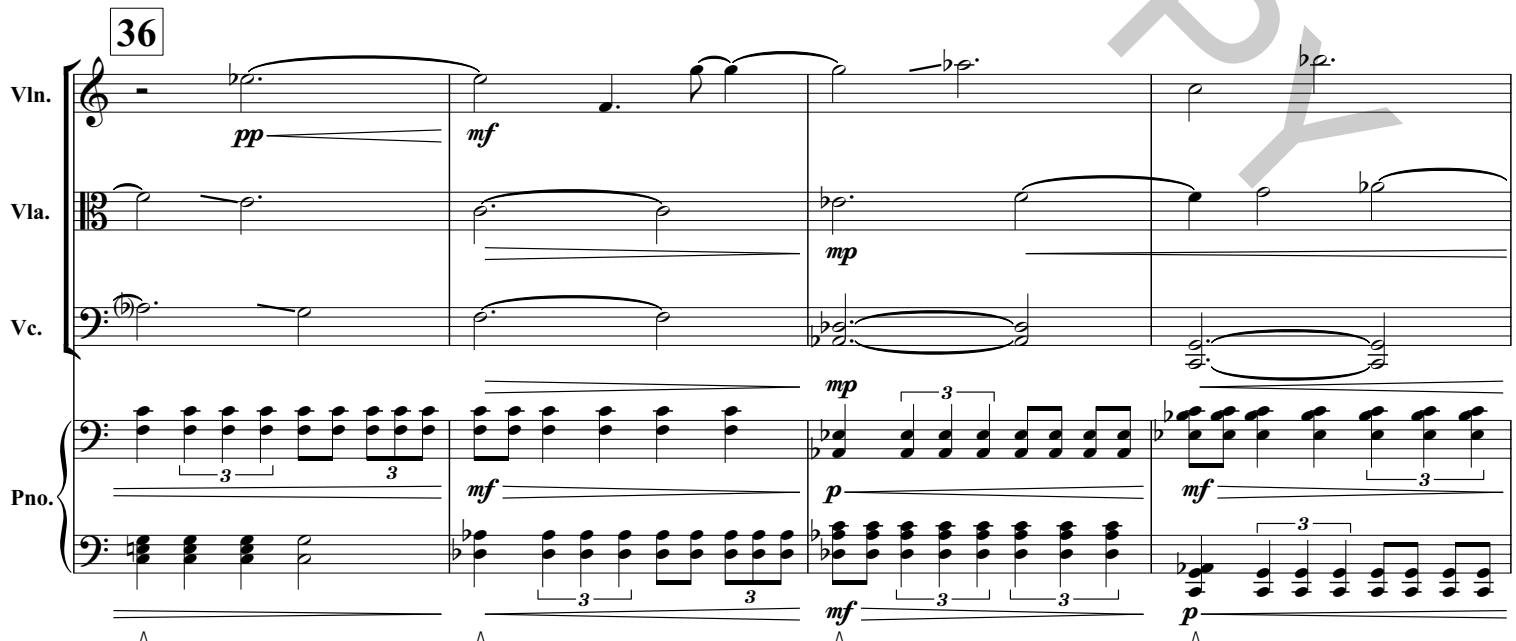
Vln. 

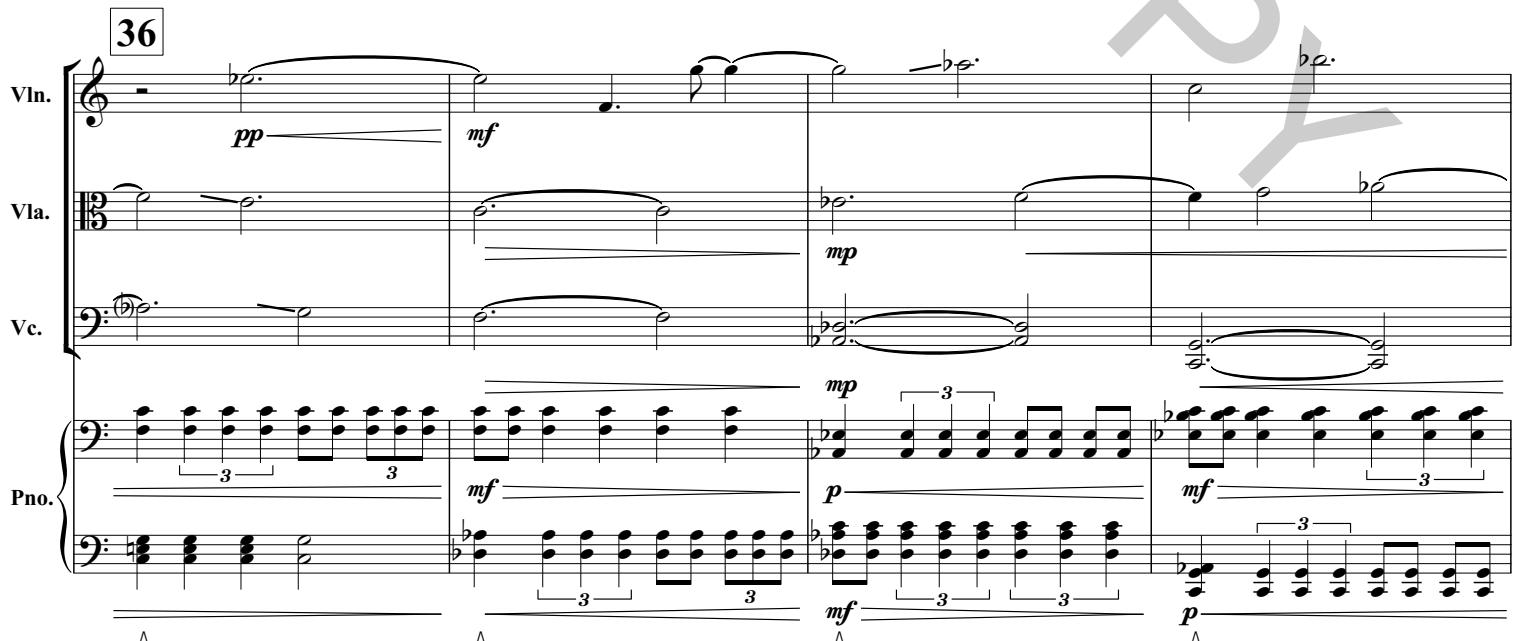
Vla. 

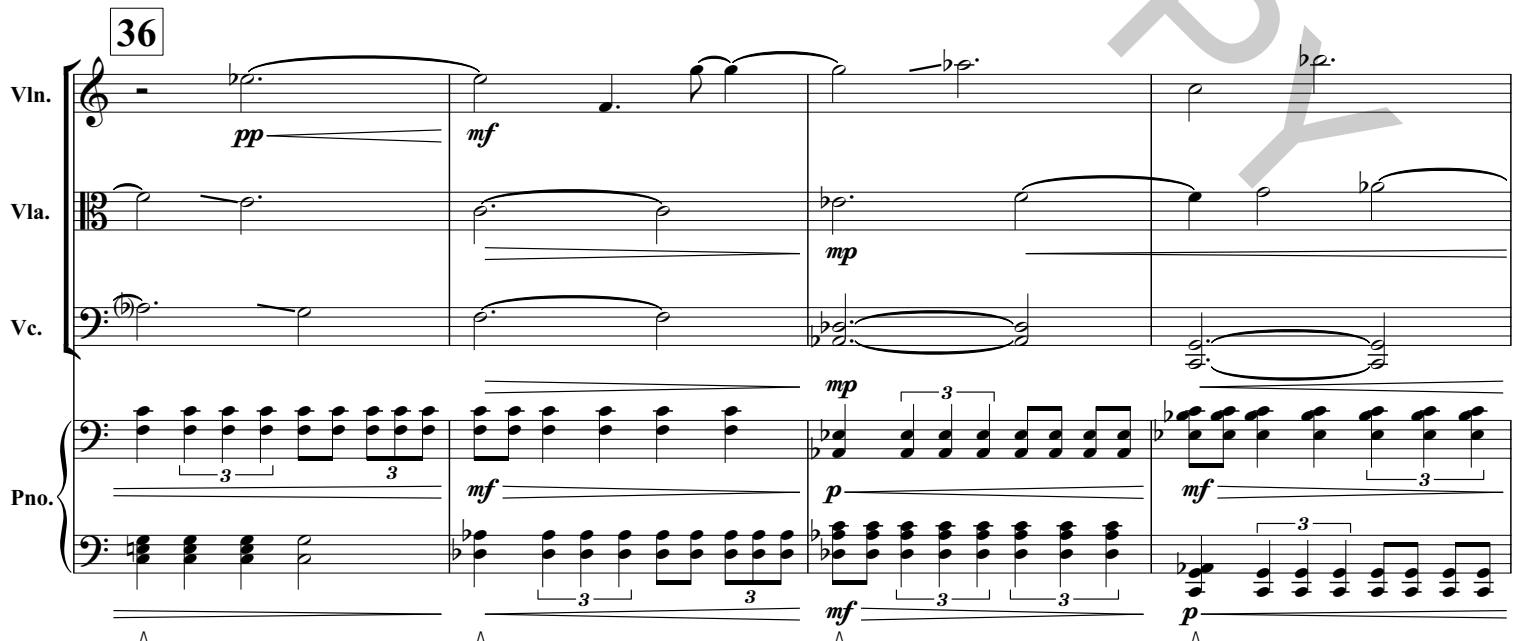
Vc. 

Pno. 

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

Solstice

19

40

Vln. $\flat\flat$

Vla. $\flat\flat$

Vc. $\flat\flat$

Pno. $\flat\flat$

mp dolce

f *sub. mp* *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

mp *f* *sub. mp* *f* *sub. mp*

44

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f bold*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *molto* *ff* *sub. p* *p*

46

IV **(*o*) III** **sul D**

ff *ff* *p*

molto *ff*

48

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf* *sub. p*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *sub. p* *mf*

IV **(*o*) III** **IV** **(*o*)**

20

Solstice

52

Vln. *f* >*p* (V) 8
 Vla. *f* >*p* <*fp* (V) 8
 Vc. *f* >*p* (V) 8
 Pno. *f* >*p* <*p* (V) 8 *mp* = *molto ff*

56 **Brutal**

Pno. *ff* 6 3 6 3 6 5

59

Vln. *f* crystalline (8) 1
 Pno. *fff*

64

Vln. (8) 1
 Vla. (8) 1
 Pno. [let ring to silence]

Vln. *ppp lontano* 5/4
 Vla. *ppp lontano* 5/4

Pno. 5/4

Solstice

21

70

Vln. *p warming*

Vla. *p* *mp warming*

Vc. *pp* *p* *mp warming*

76

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *(b)*

81 **82**

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *mf*

87

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* [let ring]

92 Suddenly slower ♩ = 52

Solstice

Pno.

5
sffz
ff
3
p
5
sffz
pp

2ed.

95

Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

arco
pp
p
arco
pp
p
mp warm,
full
3
ppp lontano
8va
8va

102 Waning

100

Vla.
Pno.

p

105

Pno.

dim.

110

Pno.

[let ring into silence]

pppp

**Quiet, still, steadily pulsing,
introspective ♩ = 60**

III. Winter

solo

arco, molto sul pont. (m.s.p.)

flutter lightly with finger

move up and down D string

Vln.

Vln.

4

Vc.

Pno.

pp carefully

pp → [sempre]

Vln.

7

9

Vc.

Pno.

24

Solstice

10

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno. sim.

mp arco no vib. p

13

Vln.

Vla. vib.

Vc. (arco) ppp pp

Pno. sim.

mp express.

16

Vln.

Vla. bō.

Vc. bō.

Pno. p 5

mp

Solstice

25

21

19

Vln. arco ord. *pp*

Vla.

Vc.

Pno. { *p*

22

Vln. arco ord. *pp*

Vla. *mf*

Pno. { *5*

25

Vln. *pp* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mp*

Pno. { *5* *3* *5*

Solstice

29

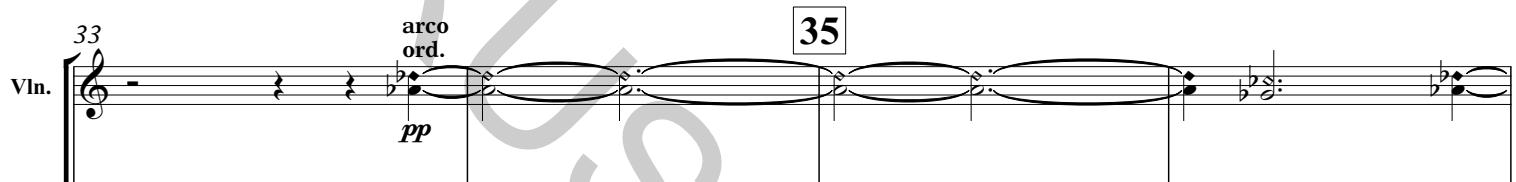
Vln. 

Vla.

Vc.

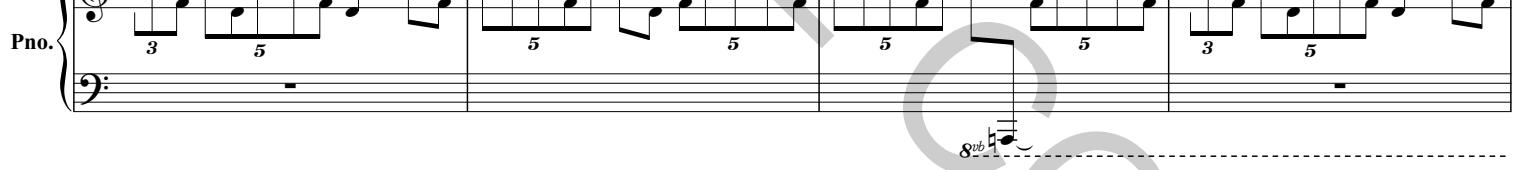
Pno. 

33

Vln. arco ord. 

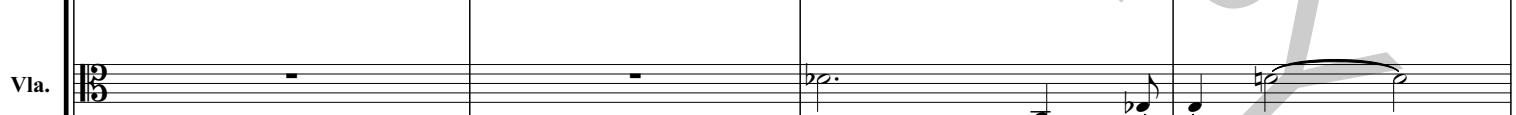
Vc. arco 

Vc. mp 

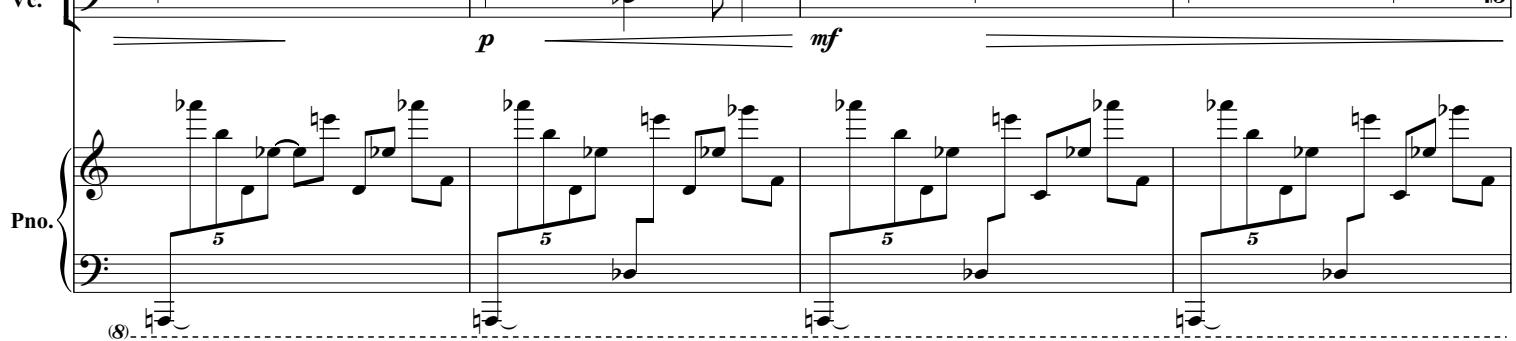
Pno. 

37

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

41

Vln. Vla. Vc.

Pno.

43 Intensifying

(8)

45

Vln. Vla. Vc.

Pno.

arco $\#p.$ mp f mp

(8)

Solstice

49

Vln. 48

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

mf

solo
arco, molto sul pont. (m.s.p.)
flutter lightly with finger
move up and down A string

p 3 5 6 *f*

f *intense, but held back just slightly* 3 5

Vln. 51

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

5 3

p

3 5 6 *f*

mp

mf 3 5 dim. 5 3 5

Solstice

29

54

Vln. *mp*

Vla. 5 3 *p*

Vc.

Pno. *p* 3 5 5 5 5

56

arco ord. *p lontano*

3 5 6 *mf*

sul A *p "seagull" effect*

57

Vln. *p*

Vla. 5 3 *p* 3

Vc. freely, repeat, ad lib., unhurried

Pno. 3 5 3 5 3 5

Solstice

62

Vln. 60

Vla.

Pno.

Pno. 62

Pno.

Vln. 63

Vln.

Pno. 63

Pno.

Vln. 66

Vln.

Pno. 66

Pno.

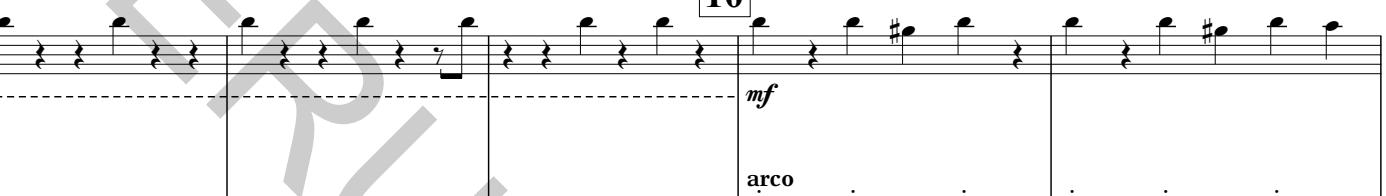
Rédo.

IV. Spring

Fast, light $\text{d}.$ = 69

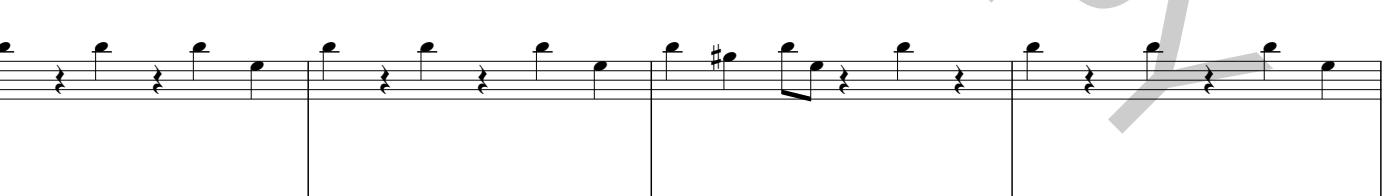
pizz.

Vln.  *p* *cresc.* -----

Vln. 
Vla. 
Pno. 

10

mf
arco
p leggiero

Vln. 
Vla. 
Pno. 

cresc. -----

Solstice

16

Vln.

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *arco*

Pno. *mp leggiero*

This section consists of four measures. The Violin and Viola play eighth-note patterns. The Cello plays eighth notes with 'arco' markings. The Piano provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords.

20

Vln.

Vla. *arco*

Vc.

Pno.

This section consists of five measures. The Violin and Viola continue their eighth-note patterns with 'arco' markings. The Cello joins in with eighth-note patterns. The Piano maintains harmonic support.

24

Vln.

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *mf leggiero* *f* *p*

This section consists of five measures. The Violin, Viola, and Cello play eighth-note patterns at forte dynamic. The Piano provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords at a moderate dynamic.

(8)

28

Pno.

(8)

32

Pno.

36

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

38 Ecstatic

arco I

pp *ff*

(8)

Pno.

39

Vln.

mf

Vla.

mf

Vc.

f

Pno.

34

Solstice

43

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

47

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

51

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

Solstice

58

35

55

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

59

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

62

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

36

Solstice

65

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

Vcl.

Pno.

Vln.

68

Vln.

Vla.

arco

Vc.

Pno.

75

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

78

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

81

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

p

f

p

ff *mf* *mp* *f*

p

f *p*

f *ff* *8vb*

38

84

85 Solstice

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

(8)-----]

87

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

8vb-----]

90

92

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

mf

mf

mf

93

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

96

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

99

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

40

Solstice

102

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

105

107

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

108

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

111

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

114

G.P. 116

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

118

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

42

Solstice

122

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

ff

fff

125

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

fff

fff

fff

128

Vln. Vla. Vc. Pno.

I

II

fff

fff

fff

88: Largo