

Israel Lai (2015 rev. 2016)

Trio

for violin and two cellos

It was September 2015 when I traveled to Uppsala, Sweden, where I experienced the cultural night, enjoyed performances of all sorts, and coincidentally got to know a painter who wrote powerful music without any musical training. Through these I got to know the folk music and dances of Sweden, one of which you can hear in the form of polska rhythms. Throughout these first months of my exchange year in Sweden, I have sought a sound that represents this country as a whole. I found out that this folk has been musically characterized by melancholy, which I try to capture through the use of a kind of tonality new to me.

This composition has also been an experiment for me. As opposed to the more mainstream combinations of strings, I have challenged myself to bring out the best of lower strings, which I am relatively unfamiliar with. With this piece I was trying to prove to myself that a pleasing melody does not have to be a lilting melody in high register but could also lie in the low register with a colorful harmony. I pack various enjoyable gems in this fun little melting pot, because after all, it is just a rhapsody.

This work was originally written for viola and two double basses as Swedish Rhapsody No.1, and revised in 2016 for violin and two cellos.

Autumn

for string trio

Israel Lai (2015, rev. 2016)

Molto lento ad lib., misterioso, as if tuning

Violin

Violoncello

Violoncello

mp smorz.

mp smorz.

mp \rightarrow *f*

mp smorz.

mp smorz.

p \rightarrow *mf*

p \rightarrow *mf*

mf

6 Moderato ♩ = 69

mf espr.

mf

fp

mp

10

f

p

mp

f \rightarrow *p*

mp \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *p*

14

mf

mf

mp

fp

fp

18

Musical score for measures 18-22. The score is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. There are slurs and accents throughout the passage.

23

Musical score for measures 23-26. The score is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. Dynamics include *ff*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. There are slurs and accents throughout the passage.

27

molto rit.

Musical score for measures 27-30. The score is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. The time signature changes to 2/4 in the final measure. There are slurs and accents throughout the passage.

31 *A tempo* ♩ = 69

Musical score for measures 31-34. The score is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. Dynamics include *mf calmo*, *pizz.*, *p*, *f*, *sfp*, *arco*, *mf agitato*, and *mf piangendo*. There are slurs and accents throughout the passage.

35 accel.

Animato ♩ = 92

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The music is in 4/4 time. The first staff has a dynamic marking of *mf agitato* and *ff*. The second staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The third staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*.

39

A tempo ♩ = 69

rall.

Musical score for measures 39-43. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The music is in 4/4 time. The first staff has dynamic markings of *ff* and *pp*. The second staff has a dynamic marking of *mf misterioso* and *pizz.*. The third staff has a dynamic marking of *p*.

44

Un poco animato ♩ = 72

Musical score for measures 44-46. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The music is in 3/4 time. The first staff has a dynamic marking of *mf dolce*. The second staff has a dynamic marking of *mp* and *(pizz.)*. The third staff has a dynamic marking of *mf* and *arco*.

47

Musical score for measures 47-50. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The music is in 3/4 time. The first staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *mp*. The second staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *mp*. The third staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *pizz.*.

50

Musical score for measures 50-53. The score is in 4/4 time. It features three staves: a treble staff and two bass staves. The treble staff begins with a *p sub.* dynamic. The first two bass staves also begin with *p sub.*. The third bass staff is marked *arco*. Dynamics include *p* and *mf* with hairpins. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with slurs and accents.

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The score is in 4/4 time. It features three staves. The treble staff has a *f* dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The first bass staff has a *mf* dynamic. The second bass staff has a *pp* dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. The third bass staff has a *f* dynamic. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *pp* with hairpins. The music includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and slurs.

58

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score is in 3/4 time. It features three staves. The treble staff has a *ff maestoso* dynamic. The first bass staff has a *ff* dynamic. The second bass staff has a *ff* dynamic. The third bass staff has a *ff* dynamic. Dynamics include *ff* with hairpins. The music includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and slurs.

62

Musical score for measures 62-65. The score is in 3/4 time. It features three staves. The treble staff has a *p dolce* dynamic. The first bass staff has a *p* dynamic. The second bass staff has a *p* dynamic. The third bass staff has a *p* dynamic. Dynamics include *p* with hairpins. The music includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and slurs. A tempo change is indicated: *rit.* followed by *A tempo* with a quarter note equal to 69.

67 sul pont. ord. sul pont. ord.

mp *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

71

f *dim.* *dim.*

76

p *ff sub.* *mf* *p* *ff*

80

sfp *sfp* *sfp* *f* *mf espr.*

84

sfp *f* *mf* *mf*

88

molto rall. *Un poco animato* ♩ = 72

mf dolce *mp* *pizz.*

92

f *mp* *f* *mp*

arco

95

f *f* *f*

pizz. *arco*

98

mf *p poco a poco cresc.*

101

f maestoso
f scherzando
f scherzando

104

ff *ff* *ff*

Molto lento ad lib.

107

ff *pp misterioso*
pp misterioso
pp misterioso

111

mp *mp espr.* *p* *mp espr.* *pp*

116 **Moderato** ♩ = 69

mf *mf* *fp* *mf*

120

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

125

mf *mf* *mp* *fp* *fp* *mf*

129 **molto rit.** **A tempo** ♩ = 69

f espr. *f* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

133

mp *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

137 **poco rall.** **Agitato** ♩ = 100

mf *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *pp* *pp*

140 **allargando** ♩ = 60 approx.

mf *pp* *f* *pp* *ff marcato* *mf* *pp* *ff* *ff* *pp* *pp* *ff*