

Michael Matthews

String Quartet No. 2

Score

String Quartet No. 2 was composed in Winnipeg between September 2002 and February 2003. The work is in three movements, and is approximately twenty-five minutes in duration. The basic tempo arrangement of the movements is moderate, very fast, slow. This structure is intended in a way to push the piece in opposite directions, towards both speed and slowness. In contrast to this directional tension, there is a cyclical aspect to the piece, reflected in the use of certain musical materials throughout the piece, the most obvious of which is the return of the repeated pulse of the opening of the first movement at the close of the final movement.

This work was written for and dedicated to the Mondriaan Quartet, who gave the world premier performance on May 10, 2003, at Crescent Fort Rouge Church in Winnipeg. The performers were:

Jan-Erik van Regteren Altena, violin
Edwin Blankenstijn, violin
Annette Bergman, viola
Eduard van Regteren Altena, cello

String Quartet No. 2

Michael Matthews

I

$\text{♩} = 116$

The musical score is presented in four systems, each containing staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Va.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- System 1 (Measures 1-6):** Vln. I starts with a rest, then plays a melodic line with dynamics *fp*, *mp*, *fp*, *pp*, *p*, and *mp*. Vln. II plays a similar line with dynamics *p*, *mp*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *mp*. Va. plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment with dynamics *p*, *p*, *poco*, *p*, *p*, and *mp*. Vc. plays a bass line with dynamics *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *mp*. Performance markings include *legato*, *pizz.*, *arco*, and *poco*.
- System 2 (Measures 7-12):** Vln. I has a triplet of eighth notes. Vln. II has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *mf*. Va. has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with dynamics *p*, *p*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mf*. Vc. has a bass line with dynamics *p*, *p*, *poco*, *p*, and *p*. Performance markings include *arco*, *legato*, and *quasi port.*
- System 3 (Measures 13-18):** Vln. I has a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *mf*, *f*, and *p*. Vln. II has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. Va. has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, and *f*. Vc. has a bass line with dynamics *p*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. Performance markings include *f* and *f*.

Accidentals apply throughout the bar,
but are repeated for ease of reading.

18

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

p *mf* *f* *f*

pizz. *arco*

♩ = 96

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *mf* *ff*

pizz. *arco*

26

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

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

pizz. *arco* *ord.* *pizz.*

rit. ... a tempo

molto rit. *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *sul p.* *ord.* *V*

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

mf *f* *mf* *ff* *sfzpp* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *ord.*

♩ = 72

♩ = 132

V

V

sempre legato

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

♩ = 92

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

♩ = 132

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

58

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

67

Vln. I *fff* *p* *ppp*

Vln. II *fff* *p* *ppp* *pp*

Va. *f* *ff* *fff* *sfz* *fff*

Vc. *fff* *p* *pp*

72

Vln. I *pp* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Vln. II *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *pizz.* *p*

Va. *pp* *p* *ff* *pp* *arco* *V* *V* *V* *V* *V*

Vc. *p* *p* *5* *3* *p*

76

Vln. I *f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *fff*

Vln. II *f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *fff*

Va. *mf* *f* *ff* *ff* *pizz.* *ff* *fff*

Vc. *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *fff*

Tempo I
♩ = 116

82

Vln. I *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vln. II *pp* *ff* *pp* *pp*

Va. *fff* *pp* *ff* *ff* *pp* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *ff* *pp* *pp*

87

87

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

pp ff ff p mf p mf pp arco

ff ppp ff pp p mf p mf pp

ff piz. pp ff mf p mf p mf pp

ff p p mf p mf pp

92

92

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

p p mf f p

p p mf f p

p mf f mp sub.

p mf f p sub.

98

98

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

p mf p mp p mf < f mp

p mf p p mf mp

mf pp p mp p mf mp

mp p mp p mp p mf mp

103

103

Vln. I

Vln. II

Va.

Vc.

ff f < ff p mf arco

ff ff p

ff ff

ff f arco