

agitpropiece
for double string trio
(2025)
Jaebong Rho

program note

On the night of December 3, 2024, the day I arrived in Korea, the president declared martial law. His intent was to drag Korea back to the era of military dictatorship in the 1970s and 80s. Thanks to the swift actions of members of parliament who gathered at the National Assembly and the citizens who blocked soldiers and armored vehicles with their bodies, the martial law was lifted within six hours. At the time, I was shocked and questioned the president's incompetence. However, as time passed, investigations and testimonies revealed that the lift was nothing short of miraculous. This piece focuses on the phenomenon that followed. The president's false propaganda to justify his actions unleashed violence, madness, and division, spreading unpredictably in every direction. I feel that this is approaching the threshold of what lies beyond my comprehension, and that frightens me.

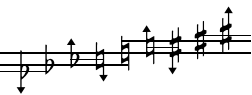
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instrumentation

group I violin
 viola
 cello

group II violin
 viola
 cello

performance notes



quarter tone lower / higher

ord ordinario



highest possible



full overpressure



half overpressure



ordinary pressure

sp sul ponticello

msp molto sul ponticello

st sul tasto

po position ordinario

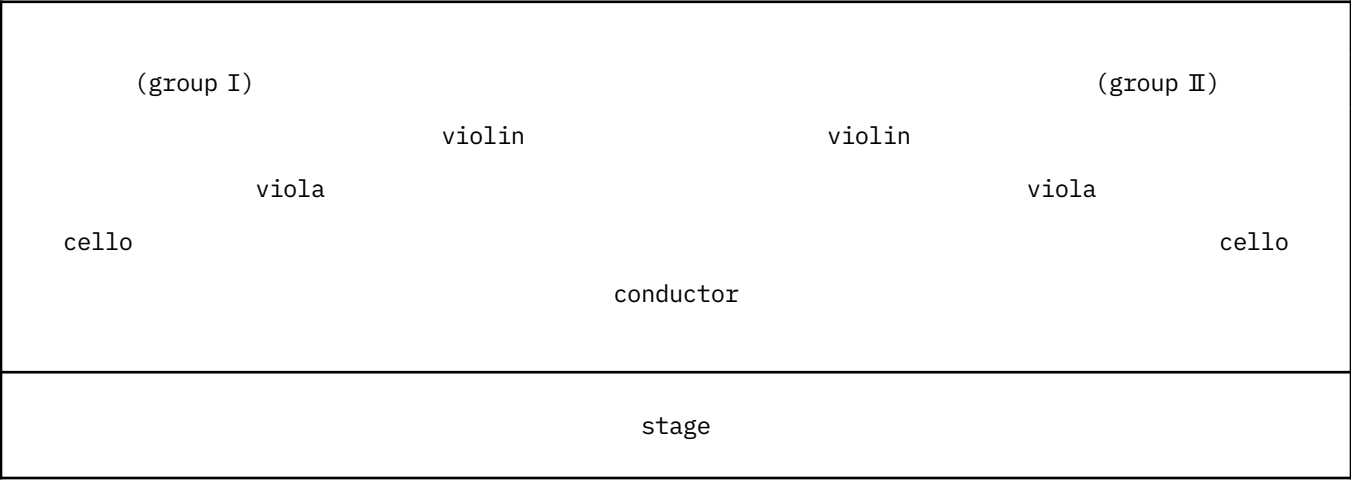


bartók pizzicato



clef for vertical bowing

duration: ca. 10'



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$\frac{6}{4}$ ♩ = 120

The image displays two systems of musical notation for a string ensemble, labeled 'group I' and 'group II'. Each system includes staves for violin, viola, and cello. The notation features dynamic markings (*p* for piano, *mf* for mezzo-forte) and performance instructions such as 'natural harmonic gliss' and '*IV, vertical bowing (from mst to msp)'. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing rests for certain instruments. The overall layout is clean and professional, typical of a musical score.

The musical score is divided into two main sections: Group I and Group II. Each section contains staves for Violin I (vln.), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vlc.).

Group I:

- Measure 4:** Features a 4/4 time signature. The vln. and vla. parts start with a piano (*p*) dynamic and an overpressure marking (indicated by a black square and two stars). The vlc. part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The measure ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.
- Measure 5:** Features a 5/4 time signature. The vln. and vla. parts start with a piano (*p*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The vlc. part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The measure ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.
- Measure 6:** Features a 6/4 time signature. The vln. and vla. parts start with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The vlc. part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The measure ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Group II:

- Measure 4:** Features a 4/4 time signature. The vln. and vla. parts start with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The vlc. part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The measure ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.
- Measure 5:** Features a 5/4 time signature. The vln. and vla. parts start with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The vlc. part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The measure ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.
- Measure 6:** Features a 6/4 time signature. The vln. and vla. parts start with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The vlc. part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and an overpressure marking. The measure ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

The score includes various performance instructions and markings, such as "I, ord. horizontal bow(msp)" and "I, ord. bowing", which indicate specific bowing techniques for the string instruments.

* hold the bow like this: 

★★ keep harmonic fingering until otherwise indicated

4 5

9

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

p *mf* *p* *mf*

I, ord. bow. *III, vt. bow.* *I, ord. bow.*

3 4 6

13

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

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

III (upto bar 28) *III (upto bar 28)* *III IV, vt. bow.*

I, ord. bow. *III, vt. bow.* *col legno batt.*

4 5

17

Group I

vln. *f* *p* *f* *p*

vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

vlc. *f* *p* *f* *p*

I, ord. bow.

III IV, vt. bow.

Group II

vln. *p* *f* *p* *f*

vla. *p* *f* *p* *f*

vlc. *p* *f* *p* *f*

III

III IV, vt. bow.

I, ord. bow.

III IV, vt. bow.

I, ord. bow.

3 4 5

21

Group I

vln. *f* *p* *f* *p*

vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

vlc. *f* *p* *f* *p*

I, ord. bow.

III IV, vt. bow.

Group II

vln. *p* *f* *p* *f*

vla. *p* *f* *p* *f*

vlc. *p* *f* *p* *f*

III IV, vt. bow.

I, ord. bow.

III IV, vt. bow.

I, ord. bow.

3 4 6 4

25

Group I

vln. *f* *mp* *ff*

vla. *f* *mp* *ff*

vcl. *f* *mp* *ff*

I, ord. bow. III, vt. bow. col legno batt.

Group II

vln. *mp* *ff* *mp* II (upto bar 40)

vla. *mp* *ff* *mp* II (upto bar 40)

vcl. *mp* *ff* *mp* IV (upto bar 33) natural harmonic gliss

col legno batt.

29

Group I

vln. *mp* *ff* *mp* *ff* II (upto bar 39)

vla. *mp* *ff* *mp* *ff* II (upto bar 39)

vcl. *mp* *ff* *mp* *ff* IV (upto bar 34) natural harmonic gliss

Group II

vln. *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp*

vla. *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp*

vcl. *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp*

Group I

41 4 5 4 4

vln. *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf*

vla. *fff* *mf* *mf* *fff* *fff* *mf*

vlc. *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf*

II (upto bar 47)

Group II

vln. *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff*

vla. *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff*

vlc. *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff*

I (keep sul pont)

II (upto bar 46), (keep sul pont)

45 2 3 4

vln. *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf*

vla. *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf*

vlc. *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf*

I

vln. *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff*

vla. *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff*

vlc. *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff* *mf* *fff*

I

56

Group I

vln. *ad lib*, gliss primarily in the high register, still very rough and aggressive
fff sempre

vla. *ad lib*, gliss primarily in the high register, still very rough and aggressive
fff sempre

vlc. arco
fff sempre

Group II

vln. *ad lib*, gliss primarily in the high register, still very rough and aggressive
fff sempre

vla. *ad lib*, gliss primarily in the high register, still very rough and aggressive
fff sempre

vlc. col legno batt.
fff sempre

3 4 2

61

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc. III, col legno batt.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc. III, arco

2 3 4

66

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc. II, arco

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc. II, col legno batt.

2/4

71

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

I, arco

3/4

9/4

6/4

76

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

f

fff

f

fff

f

fff

f

fff

f

fff

6/4 2/4 6/4 3/4 6/4 5/4

80

Group I

vln. *fpp*

vla. *fpp*

vlc. *fpp* *mf* *fpp*

Group II

vln. *fpp*

vla. *fpp*

vlc. *mf* *fpp* *pp*

pp

*almost like a staccato, but the glissando must be audible in *pp*

5/4 2/4 5/4 4

85

Group I

vln. *fpp*

vla. *mf* *fpp* *p* *fpp*

vlc. *mf* *fpp* *p* *fpp*

Group II

vln. *fpp* *fpp*

vla. *fpp* *pp* *fpp* *p*

vlc. *fpp* *pp* *fpp* *p*

4 3 2 6 5

99

Group I

vln. *mf* *ff* *mf* *ffpp*

vla. *mf* *ff* *mf* *ffpp*

vlc. *mf* *ff* *mf* *ffpp*

Group II

vln. *ffpp* *mf* *ffpp* *fff*

vla. *ffpp* *mf* *ffpp* *fff* *arco* *pp*

vlc. *ffpp* *mf* *ffpp* *fff* *arco* *pp*

5 4 3 2 6 4

103

Group I

vln. *p* *ffpp* *mf* *ffpp* *ffp* *ff*

vla. *p* *ffpp* *mf* *ffpp* *ffp* *ff*

vlc. *p* *ffpp* *mf* *ffpp* *ffp* *ff*

Group II

vln. *ffpp* *mp* *ffpp* *ff* *p* *ffp* *ppp* *ff*

vla. *ffpp* *mp* *ffpp* *ff* *p* *ffp* *ppp* *ff*

vlc. *ffpp* *mp* *ffpp* *ff* *p* *ffp* *ppp* *ff*

4 $\text{♩} = 60$

3
4

4
4

108

Group I

vln. *ppp* sub. f *fp*

vla. *ppp* sub. f *fp*

vlc. *ppp* sub. f *fp*

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc. IV
free bowing, very slowly, making each harmonic clearly audible

mp sempre (bracketed notes indicate approximate positions)

4

3
4

112

Group I

vln. II
softly f

vla. II
softly f

vlc. IV
softly f mp sempre (bracketed notes indicate approximate positions)

Group II

vln. III
softly f

vla. IV
softly f

vlc. I
softly f mp

116

3/4 4/4

group I

vln. *f* *ppp* *mf*

vla. *f*

vlc. *f*

group II

vln. *f*

vla. *f*

vlc. *f* *mp*

overpressure (use minimal bow speed but heavy pressure)

120

2/4 4/4

group I

vln. *ppp* *f*

vla. *f*

vlc. *f* *mp*

group II

vln. *f*

vla. *f*

vlc. *f*

The musical score is divided into two systems, Group I and Group II, each with staves for Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vlc.).

Group I:

- Measure 124:** All instruments play a whole note. Violin and Viola are marked *f* (forte). Violoncello is marked *f* (forte).
- Measure 125:** All instruments play a whole note. Violin and Viola are marked *f* (forte). Violoncello is marked *f* (forte).
- Measure 126:** All instruments play a whole note. Violin and Viola are marked *f* (forte). Violoncello is marked *f* (forte).

Group II:

- Measure 124:** Violin plays a whole note marked *f* (forte). Viola and Violoncello play whole notes marked *f* (forte).
- Measure 125:** Violin plays a whole note marked *f* (forte). Viola and Violoncello play whole notes marked *f* (forte).
- Measure 126:** Violin plays a whole note marked *f* (forte). Viola and Violoncello play whole notes marked *f* (forte).

Annotations:

- Measure 124:** A black box labeled "overpressure (use minimal bow speed but heavy pressure)" is placed above the Violin staff.
- Measure 125:** A black box labeled "overpressure" is placed above the Violin staff.
- Measure 126:** A black box labeled "overpressure" is placed above the Violin staff.

128

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

(use minimal bow speed but heavy pressure)

mf

ppp

2/4

4/4

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

f

f

f

ppp

overpressure

131

2 4 3

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

(use minimal bow speed but heavy pressure)

mf *ppp*

f

f *mp*

135

3 4 1 3

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

f *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

f *mp*

139 140 141

Group I

vln. *f*

vla. *f* *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

vlc. *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Group II

vln. *f*

vla. *f* *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

vlc. *f* *f* *f* *st, non vib*

143

Group I

vln. *f*

vla. *f*

vlc. *f* *mf* sempre

Group II

vln. *f* *ppp*

vla. *f*

vlc. *f* *mp*

148

2/4

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

mf sempre

ppp

f

mf

f

p

ppp

II III

I [Δ] [◇]

IV [◇] Δ

[◇]

(Δ) [◇]

(Δ) [◇]

152

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

ppp

mf

p

p

mf

p

[Δ]

II

mf

p

mf

p

III [◇] Δ

(Δ)

[illegible]

161

Group I

vln. *ff* *p* *mf*

vla. *mf* *p*

vlc. *f* *mp*

0  overpressure (use minimal bow speed but heavy pressure)

Group II

vln. *p* *mf*

vla. *mf* *p*

vlc. *f* *mp*

0  overpressure (use minimal bow speed but heavy pressure)



165

Group I

vln. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

vla. *ff* *p* *mf* *p*

vlc. *f*

0  

Group II

vln. *p* *ff* *p* *mf*

vla. *mf* *p* *ff* *p*

vlc. *mf* *f*

0   



169

Group I

vln. *ff* *f*

vla. *mf* *ff* *f*

vlc. *mp* *f*

Group II

vln. *p* *f* *ff* *f*

vla. *mf* *p* *ff* *f*

vlc. *mp* *f*

173

Group I

vln. *mp* *cresc.* *gradually ease to ordinary pressure*

vla. *mp* *cresc.* *gradually ease to ordinary pressure*

vlc. *mp*

Group II

vln. *mp* *cresc.* *gradually ease to ordinary pressure*

vla. *mp* *cresc.* *gradually ease to ordinary pressure*

vlc. *mp*

177

Group I

vln. (cresc.) *ff* sempre

vla. (cresc.) *ff* sempre

vlc. *f* stomp *fff*

all *fff* sempre

hit strings with palm

Group II

vln. (cresc.) *ff* sempre

vla. (cresc.) *ff* sempre

vlc. *f* stomp *fff*

all *fff* sempre

181

Group I

vln. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ slow gliss up on I III

vla. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ slow gliss up on I III

vlc. hit strings with palm

all

Group II

vln. hit strings with palm

vla. hit strings with palm

vlc. hit strings with palm

all

185

slow gliss down on I III

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

arco msp

slow gliss down on I III

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

arco msp

189

slow gliss down on I III

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

msp arco

slow gliss up on I III

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

msp arco

193

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

arco msp

all

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

arco msp

all

197

3

2

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

pp sub.

cresc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

pp sub.

cresc.

slow gliss up on I III

201

Group I

vln. (cresc.)

vla. (cresc.)

slow gliss down on I III

arco msp

vlc.

all

Group II

vln. (cresc.)

slow gliss up on I III

vla. (cresc.)

slow gliss down on I III

vlc.

all

205

Group I

vln. *fff*

vla. *fff*

arco msp

slow gliss up on I III

vlc.

all

Group II

vln. *fff*

slow gliss down on I III

vla. *fff*

arco msp

vlc.

all

209

Group I

vln.

vla.

vcl.

all

slow gliss down on I III

arco msp (A)

Group II

vln.

vla.

vcl.

all

slow gliss up on I III

arco msp (A)

213

Group I

vln.

vla.

vcl.

all

slow gliss up on I III

Group II

vln.

vla.

vcl.

all

slow gliss down on I III

The musical score for 'The Great Wall' by Tan Dun, measures 217-221, is presented in a standard orchestral format. The score is divided into two main sections, Group I and Group II, each containing staves for Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), Violoncello (vlc.), and a grand staff (all). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a forte (ff) dynamic. In measure 217, the strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. In measure 218, the strings continue with a similar pattern. In measure 219, the strings play a more complex rhythmic pattern. In measure 220, the strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. In measure 221, the strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The woodwinds enter in measure 221 with a melodic line. The score concludes with a final measure in measure 221.

3/4 3/8 5/8 3/8 2/4

I
ad lib, very rough and aggressive, compete against group II

225

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

all

II
ad lib, very rough and aggressive, compete against group I

229

higher pitch

2/4 3/8 2/8 3/8

gliss in zigzag motion,
I gradually ascending

III

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

233

3

2

3

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

I, gliss in zigzag motion, gradually ascending

IV, gliss in zigzag motion, gradually descending

fffz

237

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

IV, gliss in zigzag motion, gradually descending

241

3

4

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

250

250

The score for measures 250-254 is divided into two systems, Group I and Group II. Each system contains three staves: Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vlc.). The music is written in treble clef for vln. and vla., and bass clef for vlc. The time signature is 4/4. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Above the staves, there are several boxed symbols: [♩] and [♭] in measures 250-251, [♩] and [♭] in measures 252-253, and [♩] and [♭] in measure 254. Additionally, there are boxed symbols [♩] and [♭] in measures 250-251, [♩] and [♭] in measures 252-253, and [♩] and [♭] in measure 254. The score also includes several boxed symbols: [♩] and [♭] in measures 250-251, [♩] and [♭] in measures 252-253, and [♩] and [♭] in measure 254. The score also includes several boxed symbols: [♩] and [♭] in measures 250-251, [♩] and [♭] in measures 252-253, and [♩] and [♭] in measure 254.

255

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

This musical score block contains measures 255 through 260. It is divided into two main sections: Group I (measures 255-259) and Group II (measures 260-264). Each group consists of three staves: Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vlc.). The notation is complex, featuring many slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. Above the staves, there are various markings including Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV) and symbols in brackets (e.g., [o], [d]). The measures are numbered 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, and 260 at the beginning of each measure.

260

group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

This musical score block contains measures 260 through 264. It continues the notation from the previous block, with measures 260, 261, 262, 263, and 264. The layout remains consistent with Group I and Group II staves. The notation includes various musical symbols, slurs, and dynamic markings, with Roman numerals and bracketed symbols appearing above the staves.

265

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.

270

Group I

vln.

vla.

vlc.

Group II

vln.

vla.

vlc.