

String Quartet No. 1

in A Minor

for two violins, viola and cello

Violin I Part

"Seasonal Impressions"

in four movements

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QUARTET No. 1 in A MINOR: "SEASONAL IMPRESSIONS"

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HISTORY:

Written as a tribute to Franz Schubert. Originally composed in 1996, using Cubasis Audio. Some material taken from previously-written original songs. Re-sequenced and re-scored in 1998 using NoteWorthy Composer, with minor rewrites in various places. NWC source now available at Werner Icking Music Archive.

PROGRAM:

Each movement in this Quartet represents one of the seasons, starting with summer and ending with spring. However, it is intended to be "program music" in only a general sense, as implied by its subtitle. However, at the risk of ruining your own impressions, here are some of the images I envisioned when writing this piece.

First Movement: A Summer Sonnet

First theme: two sides of hot, humid weather; comfort/discomfort, etc. Second theme: holidays, carnival atmosphere, return home. Third theme (Mazurka): socialising, relaxation, segue into minor variant suggesting wistfulness, lost opportunities. Segue into "rain" theme, gentle and warm summer rains, mild storms. Cadenza: warm winds, changing situations. Finale: reprise of first theme.

Second Movement: Autumn Spirits

Theme and variations: changing colours, shortening days. "Fugal storm": wind, rain, thunder and lightning. "Danse Macabre": Hallowe'en goblins taking themselves more seriously than anyone else does. Segue to "End of Storm" section. Leads into a short fanfare announcing the celebration of Thanksgiving. "Song of Thanks": a reverent expression of gratitude, resolving into a "Country Dance" (in the same melody). Finale: reprise of "raindrops" theme.

Third Movement: Winter Chill

This gloomy little movement was based on a song, the lyrics to which were so depressing I have long since discarded them. However, the song form persists (verse, chorus, bridge, verse, chorus). So does its chilly sense of desperation over lost love.

Intro: a poignant reharmonisation of a well-known Christmas tune. "Verse" section (Scherzo): typical scherzo rhythm, but the joke isn't very funny. Darkness and chill of winter approaching. "Chorus" section (Andante): pain of loss, hope for the future. "Bridge" section: biting snowstorms, bitterness over perceived betrayal. Ends on a single icy pizzicato. Finale: riturnello.

Fourth Movement: Vernal Renewal

Lighthearted romp at the arrival of spring. First theme: Animals and nature awakening from winter hibernation. Second theme: a canon in Dorian mode launches into a jig-like dance theme; I had visions of Celtic characters breaking out of their winter cabins, fiddles in hand. (Human aspect of end of hibernation). Return to animals/nature theme, which grows uneasy, then falls quiet as the rains approach. Gentle, invigorating rain (pizzicato sequence). "Sonata Buffa" (The April Fool) in which I had images of a foolish group of amateurs hacking out a Mozart-esque theme while the Fool interferes. Things smooth out for a bit, then get progressively worse. When all falls apart, violist shoots the Fool with a cap gun. Attempted (and failed!) restart, all turn beseechingly to the cellist, who stubbornly resumes the animals/nature theme. Riturnello. Finale: "May flowers."

Rev. 1a, December 1998

Quartet #1 in Am - "Seasonal Impressions"

Fred Nachbaur

A Summer Sonnet

Violin I

Andante (♩=60)

(2)

mf *decresc.* *cresc.* *mf mp* *cresc.* *f* *mp*

9 *mf* *mp* *cresc.* *fp* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *ritard.*

17 *a tempo* *mp* *cresc.* *ff* *Pizz.* *Arco* *mp*

25 *cresc.* *ff* *f* *mf* *decresc.* *mp* *molto rit.*

33 *a tempo* *f* *fp* *mp* *cresc.* *f*

40 *fp* *p* *cresc.* *f* *decresc.*

46 *mf* *mp* *mf* *ff* *decresc.* *mf* *p*

53 *cresc.* *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

59 *cresc.* *ff* *ffp* *dolce* *mf* *Mazurka*

65 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *cresc.*

72 *f* *decresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *fp* *mp* *p*

79

83

88 *cresc.* *f*

93 *mf* *fp* *cresc.* *sf* *decresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *fp*

100 *mf* *cresc.* *ff* *decresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

107 *ffp* *mp* *mf* *cresc.* *dolce*

114 *ff* *marc.* *fp* *mp* *f* *p*

123 *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *ffp* *mf* *Pizz.*

133 *Arco*

141 *ritard.* *accel.*

145 *molto rit.* *a tempo*
cresc. *f* *decresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

153 *molto rit.* *Pizz.* **Autumn Spirits**
f *mp* *cresc.* *pf* *Andante* ($\text{♩} = 72$) *Arco*
Theme and Variations *mp*

160 *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *mf* *fp*

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

172 *fp* *fp* *mp*

178 *p* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *3* *decresc.* *3* *mf*

183 *Pizz.* *Arco*
fp *mp* *p* *cresc.* *mf* *decresc.*

189 *mp* *mp*

194 *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *3*

198 *f* *mp* *decresc.* *p* *cresc.*

203 *ritard.* *accel.* **Fugal Storm**
Andante (♩ = 75)

f 3 *decresc.* 3 *mp* 3 *ff* 3 3 3 3

208 *tenuto* *p* *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *ff* *decresc.* *p*

213 *cresc.* *Arco* *decresc.* *Pizz. Arco* *ff* *decresc.* *mf* *f* *ff* *decresc.* *f* *Pizz.* *Arco* *Pizz.*

217 *f* *decresc.* *f* *mf* *decresc.* *mf* *p*

221 *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *ff* *decresc.* *mf* *Pizz.*

226 *Arco* *mp* *cresc.* *decresc.* *ff* *decresc.* *mf* *f* *ff* 3 3 *mf* *f* *Pizz.* *Arco* *Pizz.*

231 *Arco* *Pizz. Arco* *Pizz. Arco* *fff* 3 3 *mf* *fff* 3 3 *ff* 3 3 *f* 3 *mf*

235 *ff* *decresc.* *ff* *marc.* *decresc.* *pp* *Danse Macabre (Agitato)*
♩ = 86 *p* *cresc.*

241 *mf* *f* *ff* *mp* *cresc.*

248 *decresc.* *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *mf* *ff*

255 *mp* *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *p* *cresc.*

End of the Storm
Moderato (♩=98)

261 *ff* *mp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

Fanfare
Allegretto (♩=108)

267 *f* *decresc.* *p* *mp* *cresc.*

Song of Thanks
Andante (♩=72)

274 *f* *mf* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *decresc.*

Country Dance
Allegretto (♩=78) *Somewhat faster*

281 *mf* *mp* *mf*

286 *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *mf*

291 *p* *mfp* *cresc.* *mp* *mfp* *cresc.*

296 *f* *sfp* *mp* *mp* *mf*

Winter Chill
Lento (♩=76)

300 *mp* *cresc.* *f* *mf* *mp* *p*

Arco *legato*

305 *cresc.*

313 *f* *decresc.* *mf* *p* *mp* *poco accel.*

320 *cresc.* *ff* *dim.* *mp* *Scherzo* *Andante* (♩=80) *To Coda*

327 *cresc.*

336 *mf cresc. f decresc. mf mp marc. p*

345 *cresc. mf*

352 *cresc. f*

359 *ritard. f mf*

366 *decresc. mp f mp*

373 *cresc. f p cresc. mp*

381 *poco accel. cresc. f mp cresc. f fp mp*

389 *poco accel. ♩ = 82 ff f*

396 *ff f mf f fp mf*

403 *cresc. fp fp fp cresc. molto rit.*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp). It consists of 76 measures, divided into 10 systems of 8 measures each. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings. Measure numbers 327, 336, 345, 352, 359, 366, 373, 381, 389, 396, and 403 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems. Dynamics include *mf*, *cresc.*, *f*, *decresc.*, *mp*, *marc.*, *p*, *ritard.*, *f*, *mf*, *decresc.*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *cresc.*, *f*, *p*, *cresc.*, *mp*, *poco accel.*, *cresc.*, *f*, *mp*, *cresc.*, *f*, *fp*, *mp*, *poco accel.*, *♩ = 82*, *ff*, *f*, *ff*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, *fp*, *mf*, *cresc.*, *fp*, *fp*, *fp*, *cresc.*, and *molto rit.* The score features several slurs and accents, particularly in the later measures.

410 *fffp* *mp* *marc.* *p*

416 *cresc.* *mf*

423 *cresc.* *f* *ritard.*

430 *f* *mf* *decresc.*

437 *mp* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

444 *f* *p* *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

452 *poco accel.* *f* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *fp* *mp* *ff*

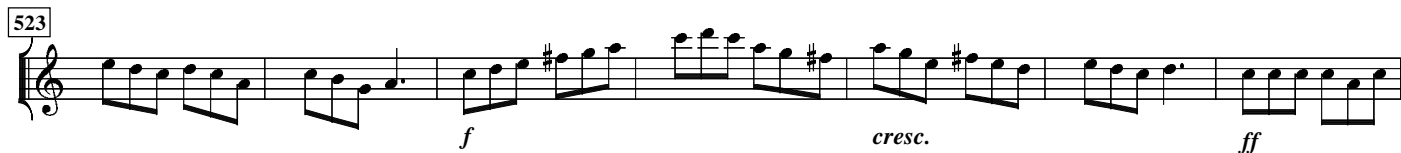
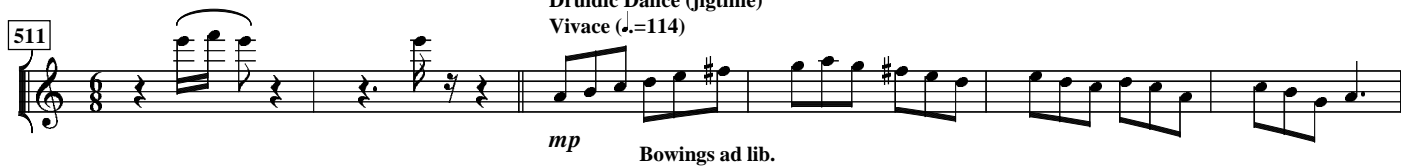
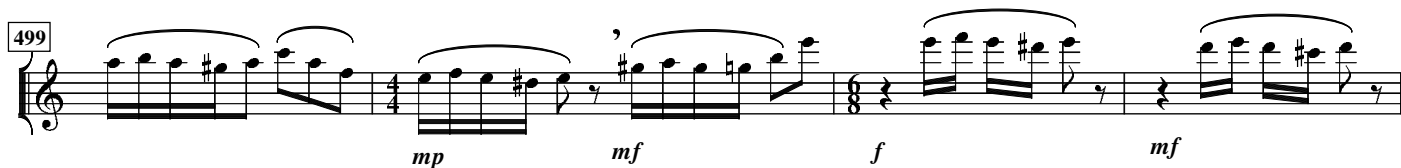
460 *mf*

468 *cresc.* *ffp* *ritard.* *decresc.* *mp*

476 *Arco* *p* *cresc.* *ala critter*

482 *mf* *Crittters' Party*

Allegro (♩ = 115)



544 *mf f cresc. ff decresc. cresc. decresc. cresc.*

550 *decresc. ritard. cresc. decresc. p*

557 *Allegro (♩ = 115) mp cresc.*

561 *ff*

565

569 *decresc. ritard. mp mf a tempo April Showers...*

574 *legato*

581 *mp*

587 *cresc. f decresc.*

593 *mf cresc. ff mf*

599

605 *mp* *cresc.* *f* *mf*

611 *cresc.* *f*

617 *mf* *cresc.* *ff* *molto rit.* **The April Fool (Sonata Buffa)**
Andante (♩=75)
al amateuro *mf marc.*

622

(somewhat smoother)
628 *Allegro* (♩=80)

(losing it...)
633 *Presto* (♩=85)

638 *scruapando **
* (play badly...)

644 *Counts in...*
(taps bow on floor)
X

650 *Arco* (Players look helplessly at 'cellist) *Allegro* (♩=76) *Ritornello* (no more clowning!)
X X X *p*

656 *Critters' Revenge*
(apologies to GF Handel) *mp* *f* *mf*

661 *f* *ff* *mf* *cresc.* *f*

665 *ff mp cresc. f*

669 *ff ff decresc.*

673 *mf ff f legato*

677 *decresc. mp cresc. f marc. Vivace (♩=114)*

682 *mf decresc. mp cresc. ff*

687 *f mf ritard. ...May flowers legato a tempo decresc.*

693 *mp cresc. ff decresc. mf*

699 *fp cresc. ff mf cresc.*

705 *ritard. Pizz. fp mf mp cresc. f mf f decresc. ff*

Quartet No. 1 in A Minor, "Seasonal Impressions". Op. 2 by Fred Nachbaur

REVISION HISTORY:

Original:

Completed November 1996, in time for the 200th Anniversary year of the birth of Franz Schubert. Sequenced using Cubasis Audio V1.0. 12 copies of score and parts printed for private circulation, using same program, with manual touchups.

Rev. 1:

Imported into NoteWorthy Composer V1.52a October 1998. Completed November 1998 with the following changes:

- Bars 78-88: added ornamentation to viola solo.

- Shortened 3rd movement by skipping repeat of section from bar 326 through 342.

- Bars 413-428: changed from straight repeat of second theme to octavised variation.

- Bar 648: added gunshot in "April Fool" sequence.

- Numerous touchups and corrections, e.g. enharmonic spelling errors, timing changes.

- Added bowings, phrasing, expression, dynamics and dynamic variations indications.

Simultaneously published on GMD Music Scores Archives in PS format, and on NoteWorthy Composer Scriptorium in NWC source-file format.

Rev. 1a:

More minor touchups December 1998 using NoteWorthy Composer V1.55a. Re-exported to PS format for GMD Music Scores Archives, using much more compact "ADSC off" PostScript driver mode. No significant musical changes.