

Pre-Aria

for 3 cellos

Full score

Jan Martin Smørdal



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Commissioned by Djup Trio 2023/24

Funded by

Komponistenes Vederlagsfond & Norsk Komponistfond

Pre-Aria

This piece is a composed reaction to J. S. Bach's "Goldberg Variations". More specifically, the slow-moving strange shifting 25th variation. As material I've used the first phrase of the *cantus firmus* on which the original variations are based on. The chords and notes are let in and out of phase, or synchronicity, searching for a polyphony of swells and shift in timbres - hence making my own variation on the theme.

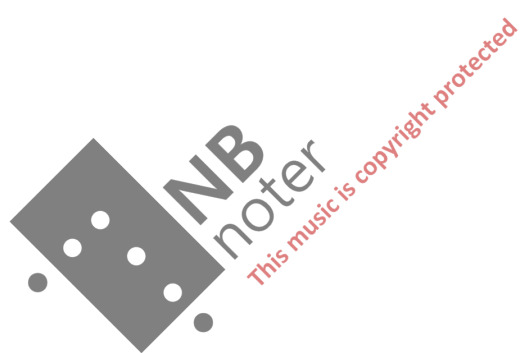
S.T.	= <i>sul tasto</i>
M.S.T.	= <i>molto sul tasto</i>
E.S.T.	= <i>estremamente sul tasto</i>
P.S.P.	= <i>poco sul ponticello</i>
S.P.	= <i>sul ponticello</i>
E.S.P.	= <i>estremamente sul ponticello</i>
N M	= No Meter

Bow near 8va node = As stated, aim for a bow position near the octave node of the stopped note. The sound is related to *flautando*, though even more hollow; very light bow pressure.

P8 / P12 ... = *Partial no 8 /no 12*. To be stopped at nodes near bow position.

Dynamic balance is paramount, unless otherwise stated.

Preferably to be performed in a place with warm, medium long reverberation.



Pre-Aria

Jan Martin Smørdal

♩ = 78 **Broad, but not brute**
Very soft attacks, Legato poss.

Violoncello 1 M.S.T. senza vib.
pp < *mf* > *sim.*

Violoncello 2 M.S.T. senza vib.
pp < *mf* > *sim.*

Violoncello 3 M.S.T. senza vib.
pp < *mf* > *sim.*

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

9 whispering 43 (II)

Vc. 1 *ppp* *mf* > *sim.*

Vc. 2 *ppp* *mf*

Vc. 3 *ppp*

Pre-Aria

5

(♩ = ♩)

13

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

mf

sim.

18

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

ppp

p

ppp

pp

mf

whispering

4:3

5:3

22

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

mf

26

Vc. 1 *whispering* 6 *ppp*

Vc. 2 *p*

Vc. 3 *p*

30

Vc. 1 *5:3* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* (M.S.T.) → M.S.P. M.S.T.

Vc. 2 *whispering* *5:3* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* (M.S.T.) → M.S.P. M.S.T.

Vc. 3 *whispering* *p* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* (M.S.T.) → M.S.P. M.S.T.

35

Vc. 1 E.S.P. M.S.T. *mf* *pp* *pp* Bow near 8va-node poco vib. whispering

Vc. 2 E.S.P. M.S.T. *mf* *pp* Bow near 8va-node poco vib. whispering

Vc. 3 E.S.P. M.S.T. *mf* *mp* *pp sub.* Bow near 8va node poco vib. E.S.P. M.S.T. whispering

42

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

senza vib. (ord.)

pp *pp* *pp* *molto*

pp *pp* *pp* *molto*

pp *molto*

50

$\text{♩} = 114$

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

f

f

mp *f*

III
P8

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55

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

pp *5:6* *5:6*

+II

+II

pp

Pre-Aria

III
node near bow

+IV

58

Vc. 1

pp

Vc. 2

5:6

Vc. 3

61

Vc. 1

3 x

f

G.P.

Vc. 2

5:6

3 x

5:6

G.P.

Vc. 3

3 x

f

G.P.

64

Vc. 1

E.S.T.

pp

mf

mf

pp

Vc. 2

E.S.T.

pp

mf

pp sub.

Vc. 3

E.S.T.

pp

mf

mf

S.P.

pp

68

Vc. 1

pp

mf

pp

II S.P. (I)

Vc. 2

S.P.

pp

Vc. 3

S.P.

71

Vc. 1

(S.P.) → S.T.

mp

pp

mp

pp

I E.S.P. P12 ord.

Vc. 2

(S.P.) → S.T.

mp

pp

(S.T.)

ppp

Vc. 3

(S.P.) → S.T.

mp

pp

(S.T.)

ord.

(*pp*)

76

Vc. 1

I

p

pp

IV

Vc. 2

ord.

pp

p

Vc. 3

p

II S.T.

pp

81

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

(pp)

ppp < pp

slow (II)

85

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

p

Fast but small bounces,
Accents and timing ad lib
M.S.T.

(I)

87

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

$\text{♩} = 78$

f

M.S.T.

(pp)

M.S.T.

(pp)

Rubato ($\text{♩} \approx \text{♩}$)

Melody through the pontic.

91

M.S.T. P.S.P. M.S.T. P.S.P.

Vc. 1 *pp* *poco*

Vc. 2 P.S.P. M.S.T. *poco*

Vc. 3 P.S.P. M.S.T. *poco*



$\text{♩} = 78$

Legato poss. (IV)

100

M.S.T. P.S.P. M.S.T.

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3



Crescende poco a poco al fine

All swells beginning soft

106

III

Vc. 1 *p* *mp*

Vc. 2 *p* *mp*

Vc. 3 *p* *mp*

Very strong
but not harsh

(mute I+II)

113

Vc. 1

mf *f* *ff* (mute I+II)

Vc. 2

mf *f* *ff* (mute I+II)

Vc. 3

mf *f* *ff*

