

Patrick Ellis

Combinations, Phrases

for Viola

2020

Combinations, Phrases

Instrumentation:

Solo Viola

Duration:

Approximately 6 minutes

Programme Notes:

Written in close collaboration with the violist Laura Sinnerton, *Combinations, Phrases* is an abstract work for solo viola that is based around several core musical phrases, that each utilise repetition, alteration and deviation.

The title refers to the creative process behind the composition, where I began by sketching out a series of short phrases that were mostly based around double stops, and used each string on the viola at least once. I developed these gestures, transforming the sketch material into more lyrical and flowing phrases.

The piece will be featured on an upcoming Birmingham Record Company release that explores works for solo viola that have been written in close collaboration with Laura.

Performance Notes:

Instances of poco ritardando, commas and regular fermatas that are marked in the score should be subjective to the performer to decide and may vary them slightly each time. However, it is advised that for commas and fermatas, that the performer does not rush into the next phrases.

- ’ Comma indicates a deliberate and distinct pause between phrases
- (’) Bracketed comma indicates a brief and natural hesitation within or between phrases

With thanks to:

Laura Sinnerton, Andy Ingamells, Birmingham Record Company, Georgia Denham, Robert Crehan and Andrew Hamilton.

12 **A tempo**

12 *pp* *mf* *ppp*

14

+ 1 - 3 seconds

sul tasto

+ 1 - 3 seconds

14 *p* *mf* *pp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

16 **B** norm. legato

16 *pp* *mp* *ppp*

18

18 *pp* *mf* *p* *ppp*

21

21 *pp* *f*

23

+ 2 - 4 seconds

sul tasto

+ 2 - 4 seconds

23 *ppp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

4 C

27 norm. poco rit. + 2 - 4 seconds

pp *f* *ppp*

29 **A tempo** poco rit. + 2 - 4 seconds

pp *f* *ppp*

31 **A tempo** poco rit. D **A tempo** molto legato

pp *mp* *ppp* *pp*

34

pp *f* *ppp* *pp*

36 + 2 - 4 seconds

pp *f* *ppp*

(senza dim.)

E

38

+ 2 - 4 seconds

5

Musical staff for measure 38. The staff is in 12/8 time. It begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The notes are: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2. A slur covers the last two notes, with a fermata over the final C2. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed under the D2 note. The staff concludes with a *ppp* dynamic marking.

40

+ 2 - 4 seconds

Musical staff for measure 40. The staff is in 12/8 time. It begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The notes are: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2. A slur covers the last two notes, with a fermata over the final C2. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed under the D2 note. The staff concludes with a *ppp* dynamic marking.

42

Musical staff for measure 42. The staff is in 12/8 time. It begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The notes are: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2. A slur covers the last two notes, with a fermata over the final C2. The staff concludes with a 3/4 time signature.

44

+ 2 - 4 seconds

Musical staff for measure 44. The staff is in 12/8 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notes are: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2. A slur covers the last two notes, with a fermata over the final C2. A dynamic marking of *ppp* is placed at the end of the staff.

47

+ 2 - 4 seconds

Musical staff for measure 47. The staff is in 12/8 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notes are: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2. A slur covers the last two notes, with a fermata over the final C2. A dynamic marking of *ppp* is placed at the end of the staff.

6 **F** 50 *poco rit.* + 2 - 4 seconds

pp *f* *ppp*

A tempo 52 *poco rit.* + 2 - 4 seconds

pp *f* *ppp*

G **A tempo** 54 *pp* *mp*

pp *mp*

57

pp *mp*

60 + 2 - 4 seconds (senza dim.)

pp *mp*

H

poco rit.

+ 2 - 4 seconds

7
(,)

64

Musical notation for measures 64-65. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 12/8. Measure 64 starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The music features a series of chords and a melodic line. Measure 65 has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piece concludes with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. A fermata is placed over the final chord.

A tempo

66

Musical notation for measures 66-67. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 12/8. Measure 66 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 67 has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music consists of chords and a melodic line.

+ 2 - 4 seconds

68

Musical notation for measures 68-69. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 12/8. Measure 68 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 69 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The music features a series of chords and a melodic line. The piece concludes with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. A fermata is placed over the final chord.

I Freely

71

norm.

(,)

Musical notation for measures 71-72. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 12/8. Measure 71 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 72 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The music consists of chords and a melodic line. The piece concludes with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

73

Musical notation for measures 73-75. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 12/8. Measure 73 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The music features a series of chords and a melodic line. The piece concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

+ 2 - 4 seconds

76

Musical notation for measures 76-77. The key signature has two flats. The time signature is 12/8. Measure 76 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 77 has a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. The music features a series of chords and a melodic line. The piece concludes with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. A fermata is placed over the final chord.

8

J A tempo

78

mp *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

80

mp *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

82

+ 1 - 3 seconds

norm.

mp *p* *ppp* *pp*

K Freely

84

pp

87

89 **L** + 4 - 6 seconds + 2 - 4 seconds 9

mp *p*

93 + 2 - 4 seconds

p *mp* *pp*

96 **rall.** + 4 - 6 seconds

pp