

Excessive Use of Force

for solo viola

JESSICA MEYER

Excessive Use of Force

for solo viola

3'30"

Between May 26th and June 4th, 2020 there was an unbelievable amount of inarguable video footage that featured excessive use of force by police officers of various departments.

All of the victims were unarmed. There were many more during this particular week and previous, and many have been about centered around race and/or sexual orientation.

These are just a few:

May 25th

Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis - a cop who had at least 17 prior complaints of misconduct on the force - kneeled down on the neck of George Floyd for over 8 minutes. The video included Floyd saying "I can't breathe" over and over again until he was unconscious, and the incident caused his death.

May 29th

After asking "why?", a petite woman was shoved so hard by an NYPD officer in Brooklyn that she was flung across the street and hit her head on the curb. She went into a seizure. There were many others that night around the Barclay Center, including a Senator who was pepper sprayed.

May 30th

A 9 year-old girl in Seattle that was walking with her family to get home alongside a protest gets pepper sprayed in the face by a cop. Video shows her crying hysterically while bystanders run to pour milk over her.

May 31st

Video surfaces of a woman in Indianapolis being arrested on the sidewalk and held from behind. Video shows her jerking free after the cop's hands graze her breasts. She is then beaten with a baton 6 times and sprayed with rubber bullets while another woman yells "Why her??" The other woman is then shoved hard to the ground and arrested by 4 male cops.

May 31st

Video of a swarm of cops in Chicago surround a car with 2 women inside. They are violently dragged out by their hair and one kneels on a woman's neck for two minutes. They just arrived to go shopping.

June 1st

D.C. Security officers (including Secret Service, military police, U. S. Park Police, District National Guard, and Virginia police), advance on peaceful demonstrators in Lafayette Square in order to clear the area in front of St. John's Church for a photo-op featuring Trump with a bible. They use smoke canisters, shields, pepper balls, and horses to force demonstrators from the park to H Street. In addition to the hurt protesters, The Australian government said it is investigating the videotaped assault of two Australian 7NEWS journalists by police while reporting on the protesters.

June 4th

In Buffalo, New York, video taken by a reporter from a local public radio station on Friday showed police pushing a 75-year-old protester to the ground. The man was left bleeding out of his ears on the pavement as officers walked by.

It sickened me to watch these videos and try to explain to my 13 year-old son that this is the world we live in.

On the night of June 1st, while still in shock over Trump's "photo-op" incident, my husband and I watched a documentary on the legendary Woodstock Festival.

400,000 people descended on a farm in upstate NY 50 years ago for a weekend of concerts, love, and peace. New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller threatened to summon the National Guard, however a grassroots spirit of cooperation and collaboration between the hippies and the few police present resulted in an amazingly non-violent experience.

Imagine what would have happened if the National Guard was there.

On the last morning of the Festival, Jimi Hendrix wailed out a version of the "Star Spangled Banner" on his guitar, replete with sounds of the rockets and bombs that plagued the Vietnam war that everyone was sick of at the time.

"Excessive Use of Force" is my homage to that performance - only this time the quoted song is "My Country 'tis of Thee", and the sounds are that much more gritty to convey the ugliness of these current times.

Excessive Use of Force

originally for cellist Paul Dwyer

JESSICA MEYER

♩ = 60

Over Pressure: lean into bow while also lifting L.H. fingers slightly and to get a crackling/stressed sound

ord

Viola

n.v.

ppp *f*

3

Bow against rib of instrument to mimic inhale/exhale

ppp (*mf*)

very wide vib.....narrow vib

Over Pressure...and put a finger down lightly on A-string to get the effect.

.....very wide vib.....n.v.

ord

5

ppp *ff*

7

Bow against rib of instrument to mimic inhale/exhale BUT this time make it more labored

ppp

9

n.v. ord. vib.

gliss. *mf* > *p* *f*

12

poco vib. rit.....

Bow against rib of instrument to mimic inhale/exhale

mp (*mf*) *p* (*mf*)

Slower

n.v.

Bow against rib of instrument to mimic inhale/exhale BUT more labored

16 Over Pressure Sul tasto to poco sul pont
BOW CIRCLES, slowly getting
faster and faster like the blades
of a helicopter starting up repeat until you get
up to the 16th note
value of meas. 24

16 *pp* *mp* IV

24 *p* *mp* sul pont ord

29 *sfz*

34 lift L.H. fingers slightly to
get a crunchier dirtier sound *mf* *p* ord subito sul pont

39 *mp* ord *gliss.*

43 *sfz* *gliss.* *gliss.* gliss pitches do not
need to be exact

47 *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* sul pont gliss down C with open G

random double stop on G and D strings while gliss
lift L.H fingers slightly to get a crunchier dirtier sound

50 subito ord

gliss.

54 $\text{♩} = 155$ or faster (but take what time you need to have the accented melodic notes come out)
ord

58

63

68

73

77

jete

like a police siren...take whatever bows you need

♩ = 155

♩ = 155

81

8ves slide upwards

88

93

♩ = 120

molto rit......
molto vibrato and cycling sul pont - like you are playing an electric guitar

end on violent up bow

99

♩ = 60

n.v.

Over Pressure

ord

106

slow to fast trill between bottom note and top harmonic

Bow against rib of instrument to mimic inhale/exhale

rit......

113

mf p

June 6th, 2020 NYC