

Released

for solo cello

JESSICA MEYER

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7'

Program Note

Back in 2013, a mother of a friend of mine died in a tragic car accident on I-95. A truck unexpectedly crossed over the median and crashed head-on into her car. I often wonder what those last moments of life might be like.

You hear about flickering lights and memories, and perhaps a swirling vortex of images of your life flashing before your eyes.

However quick or prolonged, panicked or serene, I believe there is a moment of irrefutable recognition when you know death is coming and you are about to be released into the other side.

This piece explores all of these ideas, in the hopes that one would ultimately find peace when they get there.

I use the "Dead Man's Tuning", G (A string tuned down a step) – D – G – G (C string turned down a 4th), for this piece - which comes from an Appalachian Old Time fiddling tradition in America.

Performance Notes

1. Measure 1, 3, and 94 :
lightly bow the string you are plucking to produce a twangy sound.
2. Measure 33:
The arrows mean a series of portato notes getting faster, then slower.
3. Measure 65 and 67:
Simultaneously play the open A string as you play the printed notes.
In 67, you gliss up the D string while playing the open A string.
4. Measure 68:
Quickly gliss up the A string to the high note.
5. Measure 77 and 78:
Speed of the trills get slower and slower.
6. In general:
Take as much time as you need to transition from one sound to another.
Finger the notes that are written on the staff as you would normally.

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Tuning: G-D-G-G
Play as fingered

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♩ = 58 **Foreboding**

III
II
I.h. pizz. while bowing
sfz p mp sfz
L. H. pizz

4
molto accel... a tempo molto accel...
mp L. H. pizz

♩ = 70 **Like a Cantor** poco sul pont, n.v.
II
10 I
I.h. pizz. while bowing
mp p IV until m. 24

15
rubato
mf 6

20
IV III
sub. p open strings
accel... poco a poco sul pont...

25
rit... a tempo, misterioso sul pont. pulsing
mp p sfz

29
III II
sfz ord. bow vib.
sfz

Otherworldly

trill by lifting 5th finger

34 *accel... rit...*
tr. con vib. * cross all strings quickly, molto sul pont. No pitch, just scratchy sound.

40 *accel... rit...*
 trill by lifting 1st finger *sim...* slide in between new pitches *poco a poco sul pont....*

mf ♩ = 74

45 slide in between new pitches *molto sul pont.*

mf

48

51 *poco a poco ord....* *poco a poco accel....*

mf

54

55 *ord.*

ff

56 *sul pont.* *sub. mf* *sfz*

sfz

57 *ord.*
ff 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

58 *molto sul pont.*
sub. p

59 *poco a poco ord...*
f

60 *ord.*
sub. mp *sfz* *ff* **♩ = 85 Explosive**

62 *sim...*
 play open A 8va through the bar

64

65
 play open A 8va

66

67 *gliss.* *molto rit.*

sustain A 8va & gliss up the D string over these 4 beats

gliss up A string

$\text{♩} = 68$ **With Abandon**

68 *molto vib.* *fff*

Shrieking

trill by lifting 5th finger

rit and unwind...

$\text{♩} = 90$ **Calm**

non vib. (arco on D string)

75 *trill* // *trill* // *ord. vib* *trill*

ff *fff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *p*

82 *mp*

87 *mf* *mp*

91 *arco on G string, pizz. always present*

pp *p*

94 *mf* *p* *pp*

l.h. pizz. while bowing