

Swerve

for solo cello and loop pedal

JESSICA MEYER

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6'

PROGRAM NOTE

Amanda Gookin was the first person to officially commission me for a piece back in 2014. Her Forward Music Project since its inception in 2015 is unwavering: in the fight for radical empathy and feminine empowerment, you are not alone. It has been an honor to watch her play all over the world, and have my piece culminate the first 1.0 show.

Swerve is about women making a conscious effort to get everything grooving the way it should, in balance with all the feelings and responsibilities that are unique to us.

In essence.... that moment when you "get your swerve on."

This piece is dedicated to the women who will find their courage to be their most empowered selves, and the men who stand by them that have decided not to regard them with fear - but instead with awe and appreciation.

INSTRUCTIONS

- This piece was written with a Boss Loop Station RC-20XL Phrase Recorder and a DPA 4099 Clip Microphone. However, the piece could be performed on any loop pedal that can start and stop playback, and loop a 4 measure phrase.
- The mic should amplify the natural resonance of the cello (I don't think stick-on contact mics would work, but feel free to try them). We want to be able to capture the more fragile and wispy sul tasto sounds.
- To record, press the left pedal down. When you press it again, whatever you just played will have been recorded by the machine, for the exact length of time between pedal presses, and will start to repeat over and over again. Repeat the process to add layers. Each new layer of material is marked by a "Loop #".
- Once you set the first loop and establish the initial tempo and duration, you could technically hit the pedal at any time to enter in new material (as long as you are lining up the new material with what you are hearing through the playback).
- To stop the playback, touch the right pedal. To clear all the sounds from the memory bank, hold the right pedal down for a few seconds to erase.
- When it is marked "solo" it means that you are not recording and are just playing along with the loops.

When in doubt...please check out our videos :)

Swerve

Commmisioned by cellist Amanda Gookin for her Forward Music Project

JESSICA MEYER

Tight & Groovy ♩ = 125

Drumming the body of the instrument - pitches to represent approximate contrasting sounds

6 *mf*

10

15

knocking on the wood

slap wood or covered fingerboard

fp

19

rit.....

tap top of cello with left hand while picking up bow

LOOP #1

Mute strings w/left hand while bouncing bow at tip. Should sound like a drum.

set loop

Solo (arco ord.)

ff *mp* *pp* *f*

hit cello on the "x"

26

all glissandi are for the entire note value throughout the piece

gliss.

mp

jazzy

31

34

LOOP #2

mp

37

Spiccato Bariolage ♩_s with open D

gliss.

while sliding down G string

mf

random
accented
grace notes
throughout
this pitch

zingy accents

43

Musical staff 43-49. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff contains a melodic line with various accents and dynamics. A box at the top left contains the text 'random accented grace notes throughout this pitch'. A box at the top right contains 'zingy accents'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *f* and *sfz*.

50

Musical staff 50-55. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a melodic line with glissandos and vibrato. A box above the staff contains 'gliss.' and 'molto vib.'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *f* and *sfz*. A box at the top right contains 'loops ON'.

56

Musical staff 56-59. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a melodic line with triplets and a sixteenth-note run. A box above the staff contains 'loops OFF'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *ff* and *sfz*. A box at the top right contains 'loops ON'.

60

Musical staff 60-61. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A box above the staff contains 'loops OFF' and 'thrashy'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *fff*.

62

Musical staff 62-65. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A box above the staff contains 'loops ON'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *f*. A box at the top right contains 'press pedal to remove Loop #2 layer'.

66

Musical staff 66-69. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A box above the staff contains 'layer removed...leaving just Loop #1 playing'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *f*.

70

Musical staff 70-78. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a melodic line with tremolos and glissandos. A box above the staff contains 'trem. gliss down A string' and 'wispy and daydreamy'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *ff* and *pp*. A box at the top right contains 'LOOP #3' and 'sempre MOLTO sul tasto, or else this material will overload the texture later on'.

79

Musical staff 79-83. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a melodic line with glissandos and vibrato. A box above the staff contains 'gliss.'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *ppp*. A box at the top right contains 'very sharp zingy accents with bow and vib. to create a hocketed line as this builds'.

84

Musical staff 84-90. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a melodic line with glissandos and vibrato. A box above the staff contains 'gliss.'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *ppp*.

91

Musical staff 91-95. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 12/8. The staff features a melodic line with glissandos and vibrato. A box above the staff contains 'gliss.'. The staff includes a fermata over a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents. Dynamics include *ppp*.

99

Still molto sul tasto to not overload pedal

108

ord. but still delicate

115

baroque-like

set loop

solo

130

133

slow trem. accel trem.

STOP LOOPS AND ERASE ALL

rit.....

139

slower...like concerto cadenza

144

NEW LOOP #1

148 ↓ **♩ = 170 or faster**

f (spicc.)

151 ↓ **set loop** ↓ **NEW LOOP #2**

f

158

slow tremolo... accel.

166

mp

170 ↓ **set loop**

173 **Solo...improvised lyrical solo for 12 bars** **improvised drumming solo for 12 bars**

NEW LOOP #3

179 ↓ **drumming**
> = thumb, the rest fingertips

181 **16 bar solo....getting excited**

NEW LOOP #4

185 ↓ **(record on the repeat only)**

ff

slide B down the G string

189 **8 measure rockin' solo** **thrown jete strokes while sliding up C**

Tremolo Sul D then A while keeping the same accented rhythm

gliss.