

Swerve

for solo viola and loop pedal

JESSICA MEYER

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6'

PROGRAM NOTE

Cellist 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. Since I love it so much, I have also played this viola version any time I can.

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 viola (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 :)

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Commissioned by cellist Amanda Gookin for her Forward Music Project

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Tight & Groovy ♩ = 125

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

6 *mf*

10

15 *fp*

knocking on the wood

slap wood or covered fingerboard

19 *ff mp pp f*

rit.....

LOOP #1

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

set loop Solo (arco ord.)

tap top of viola with left hand while picking up bow

hit viola on the "x"

26 *mp*

jazzy

gliss.

31

34 *mp*

LOOP #2

Spiccato Bariolage with open D

37 *mf*

while sliding down G string

gliss.

random
accented
grace notes
throughout
this pitch

zingy accents

43

50

loops OFF

sfz

56

loops OFF

59

loops ON

62

press pedal to remove
Loop #2 layer

66

layer removed...leaving
just Loop #1 playing

70

LOOP #3

sempre MOLTO sul tasto, or else this
material will overload the texture later on

79

very sharp zingy accents with
bow and vib. to create a
hocketed line as this builds

84

91

99

Still molto sul tasto to not overload pedal

108

115

set loop

122

130

133

slow trem. accel trem.

STOP LOOPS AND ERASE ALL

rit.....

139

slower...like concerto cadenza

trill w/ open "D"

144

NEW LOOP #1

↓ ♩ = 170 or faster

148

f (spicc.)

151

↓ **set loop** ↓ **NEW LOOP #2**

mp

158

slow tremolo...accel.

mp

166

mp

170

↓ **set loop**

mp

173

Solo...improvised lyrical solo for 12 bars

improvised drumming solo for 12 bars

179

NEW LOOP #3

drumming
> = thumb, the rest fingertips

mp

181

16 bar solo...getting excited

185

NEW LOOP #4

(record on the repeat only)

slide B down the G string

ff

189

8 measure rockin' solo

thrown jete strokes while sliding up C

Tremolo Sul D then A while keeping the same accented rhythm

gliss.

mp