

Source of Joy

for viola and loop pedal

JESSICA MEYER

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3'30"

PROGRAM NOTE

When you think of the role the violist plays in typical classical repertoire, usually you think of lamenting melodies, throaty melodramatic outbursts, or patterns that help hold the ensemble together. After writing this piece, I realized that the sounds I used were quite the opposite from what is expected of a violist. Here we have high, soaring, groovy, and virtuosically powerful sounds.

I wrote this piece after finally embracing the fact that I am indeed a composer, and thought that perhaps this was a fitting metaphor for life - because sometimes you have to go beyond what is expected of you to find your own source of joy...and it is never too late to do that.

INSTRUCTIONS

- This piece was written with a Boss Loop Station RC-20XL Phrase Recorder and a DPA 4099V Clip Microphone. However, the piece could be performed on any loop pedal that can start and stop playback, and loop an 8 beat 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 rehearsal #.

- 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.

For every rehearsal #,
press the record pedal.
When it says solo,
stop recording to play
solo over the loops.

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$\text{♩} = 96$

Cadenza-like...take your time with gestures

Viola

1 START LOOP #1

7

12 SET LOOP solo pizz. III *l.v.*

17 2

26 keep recording all pizz. harmonics as previous

34 solo still pizz.

42 arco mp \leftarrow f

49 gliss. ff

55 *mp* < *f*

60

63 *p* *sul tasto* 3 3 3

70 *mf* *p* *gliss.* *keep recording* *mf* *p*

76 *gliss.* *gliss.* *mf* *pp*

80

83

86

89 *ff* L.H. pizz arco

93 L.H. pizz arco solo L.H. pizz arco L.H. pizz arco

fff

100

3 3

106

3 3

113

CUT LOOPS AND ERASE ALL

repeat until loops are cleared

f

4 NEW LOOP

116 SET LOOP

solo pizz. II 0 l.v. IV 0 III 0

mp

121

all pizz. harmonics as previous

5 SUNG

129

pizz. II 0 l.v. II 0

mf

Joie - - -

p

134

(ghost this measure)

(ghost this measure)

CUT LOOPS