

A Fire to be Kindled

for eight violas

JESSICA MEYER

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3'

PROGRAM NOTE

"A child's mind is not a container to be filled, but rather a fire to be kindled"

-Dorothea Brande

In tandem with my career as a violist, and now as a composer/performer, I have always worked with children of all ages. Not so much as a private teacher, but as a teaching artist - one who shows up, gets students brainstorming about creative or performative choices, and then facilitates how they can make these choices themselves. My favorite moments are always when their inner fire has been lit and they feel supported while they investigate how to keep it burning, all while becoming better versions of themselves.

Having started as a violist, my feathers always get ruffled when the viola jokes are made and the stereotype of the musician who plays the viola is seen as "less than". Even as a soloist, I have noticed that presenters are reluctant at first about a violist carrying a show as opposed to a violinist or cellist.

This piece is dedicated to all the violists out there of all levels who love their instrument, love their sound, and want to show their fire.

Many thanks to the Portland Youth Philharmonic and their Youth Orchestra Commissioning Initiative for the opportunity to keep young musicians inspired and motivated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

NOTE: This piece was designed to be performed remotely with click. If you are fortunate enough to play this in person, it is imperative that you play it as if you are playing with a click track - rock steady like a pop song.

A Fire to be Kindled

Commissioned by the Portland Youth Philharmonic

JESSICA MEYER

♩ = 110 Joyous and Determined

all accents very sharp and loud

keep the slurred notes really smooth and the separate notes really chuggy

Musical score for Viola 1 through Viola 8, measures 1-7. The score is in 4/4 time and features various dynamics including *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and accents. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for Viola 1 through Viola 8, measures 8-11. The score continues with complex rhythmic patterns and dynamics including *f*. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

12

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vla. 5
Vla. 6
Vla. 7
Vla. 8

ff *mp* *p*

ff *mp* *p*

ff *mp* *p*

ff *mp* *p*

ff *f* *p*

ff *f* *p*

ff *f* *p*

ff *f* *p*

19

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vla. 5
Vla. 6
Vla. 7
Vla. 8

p *p*

p *pizz.* *mp*

pizz. *mp*

pizz. *mp*

B

27

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vla. 5
Vla. 6
Vla. 7
Vla. 8

mp
mp
mp
mp
mp
p
mp
mp
mp
mp

arco
arco

34

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vla. 5
Vla. 6
Vla. 7
Vla. 8

f
f
f
f
f
f
f
f

mp
mp
mp
mp
mp
mp
mp
mp

arco
arco

trill
trill

6
6

C

all accents very sharp and loud

41

Vla. 1 *fp* *p* *mp > pp*

Vla. 2 *fp* *pp*

Vla. 3 *fp* *pp*

Vla. 4 *ff* *pp*

Vla. 5 *ff* *pp*

Vla. 6 *ff* *p* *mp >*

Vla. 7 *ff* *p* *mp >*

Vla. 8 *ff* *p* *mp >*

D

51

Vla. 1 *mp* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *mp* *pp* *3*

Vla. 2 *mp* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *mp* *pp* *3*

Vla. 3 *p* *mp* *pp*

Vla. 4 *pp*

Vla. 5 *pp*

Vla. 6 *use open strings* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. 7 *use open strings* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. 8 *use open strings* *pizz.* *p*

59

Score for measures 59-63. The score is for eight violas (Vla. 1-8). Measures 59-60 feature trills in Vla. 1 and Vla. 2. Measures 61-63 show various melodic lines with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. Vla. 6 and Vla. 7 include *arco* markings. Vla. 8 has a *meaty* marking in measure 63.

64

Score for measures 64-68. The score is for eight violas (Vla. 1-8). Measure 64 starts with a double bar line and a key signature change to E major, indicated by a box labeled 'E'. Measures 64-68 feature complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and trills, with dynamics *f* and *mp*. Vla. 1 and Vla. 2 have prominent trills and triplets.

69

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vla. 5
Vla. 6
Vla. 7
Vla. 8

ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff

pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.

73

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vla. 5
Vla. 6
Vla. 7
Vla. 8

arco
arco

pizz.
pizz.

arco
arco

77

Vla. 1 *mp*

Vla. 2 *mp*

Vla. 3 *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vla. 4 *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vla. 5 *p* *mf* *mf* *f* *mf*

Vla. 6 *p* *mf* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vla. 7 *pizz.* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* *arco* *mf*

Vla. 8 *pizz.* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

G

80

Vla. 1 *f*

Vla. 2 *f*

Vla. 3 *f*

Vla. 4 *f*

Vla. 5 *f*

Vla. 6 *f*

Vla. 7 *f*

Vla. 8 *arco* *mf*

82

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

Vla. 5

Vla. 6

Vla. 7

Vla. 8

f

84

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Vla. 4

Vla. 5

Vla. 6

Vla. 7

Vla. 8

ff

fff

pizz

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NYC