

Score

WHITE

an elegy

*for string quartet*

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*In memorium: Laura, Elise, Eric, and Michelle*

## WHITE - an elegy

*for string quartet*

### About the piece

Over the course of the years 2010-2012, my family lost four members to sudden and unexpected heart attacks. My Aunt Laura had never, to the best of our knowledge, shown any signs of heart trouble, and her children (and my cousins) Elise, Eric, and Michelle were all in their 30's. To help myself process this, and as a memorial gift for their surviving family, I wrote this piece for string quartet in the fall of 2012.

As I reflected on this, I came to the realization that the most recent, most present memories I had of them came from weddings: my wedding, my other cousins' weddings, Michelle's own wedding. I decided early on that this must be reflected in the piece, and these more tangible memories manifest as a dance that is light, joyful, and a bit off-kilter placed within and among the fragile, elegiac, almost intangible character of the rest.

*WHITE - an elegy* is dedicated to the memory of Laura, Elise, Eric, and Michelle White.

### Performance Notes

All trills are half-step trills.

Oscillating glissandi without noteheads (i.e. viola m. 10, cello m. 8, etc.) should be an interval of roughly a minor third from somewhere slightly below the first pitch to somewhere slightly above, though this interval need not be exact and indeed should vary slightly throughout the gesture. This should be a continuous glissando, and should not linger at any peak or valley.

Natural harmonics are written with diamond noteheads and only indicate the string and the sounding pitch, but not the specific finger placement, which is left to the discretion of the performer.

Only artificial harmonics at the fourth are used; all other instances of a diamond notehead paired with a regular notehead indicate a diad between a stopped note and a natural harmonic.

ord. Pr. - ordinary bow pressure

L. Pr. - lower than normal bow pressure

N. Pr. - almost no bow pressure

- Touch the string lightly at the pitch indicated as if a harmonic, but mute the string lightly with the remaining fingers as well to prevent the production of actual harmonics. The result should be a veiled, hardly perceptible coloring of the dominating string sound produced by the stopped note. If a note is held beyond the bracket, depress the string normally at the point at which the bracket ends. This technique is always paired with *flautando* bowing.

# WHITE

an elegy  
for string quartet

Fragile, airy (♩ = 60)

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello, measures 1-12. The score is in 4/4 time and features various dynamics and articulations. Key markings include *pppp*, *p*, *pp*, *n*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions such as "sul tasto flautando" and "sul pont. estr." are present. Measure numbers 3-4" are indicated above the staves.

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello, measures 13-24. This section includes a first ending bracket labeled 'A' at measure 13. Dynamics range from *pp* to *pppp*. Performance instructions include "arco ord.", "ord. Pr.", "L.Pr.", "N.Pr.", "sul pont. estr.", "sul tasto flaut.", "sul tasto", "sul tasto ord.", "half col legno", and "flautando". Measure numbers 7:6 and 7:4 are indicated below the staves.

II. I. 3-4" B sul tasto flautando

Vln. 1 *p* *pp* *p* *pppp* *p* *ppp* *pppp* *pp* *n* *p* *pp* *ppp* *pppp*

Vln. 2 *n* *pppp* *pp* *n* *pppp* *pp* *n* *ppp* *p* *n* *ppp* *pp* *pppp* *p* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *mp* *p* *ppp* *p* *n* *ppp* *p* *n* *p* *ppp* *arco ord.* 3-4"

Vlc. *p* *mp* *n* *p* *mp* *n* *ppp* *ppp* *p* *n* *pppp* *p*

Annotations: *sul tasto flautando*, *ord.*, *shimmering*, *arco ord.*, *sul pont. estr.*, *ord. Pr.*, *N.Pr. sul tasto*, *3-4"*

III. C Light, dancing (♩ = 72, ♩ = 144) sul tasto flautando lightly, at the point of the bow arco ord.

Vln. 1 *p* *n* *pppp* *p* *n* *pppp* *mp* *n* *p* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *p* *pppp* *mp* *p* *pppp* *p* *n* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *pppp* *p* *n* *p* *mf* *f*

Vlc. *n* *pppp* *p* *n* *pppp* *p* *n* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *f*

Annotations: *IV.*, *II.*, *lightly, at the point of the bow*, *arco ord.*, *pizz.*, *-5-*, *arco*, *III.*, *II.*, *arco ord.*, *I.*, *II.*

Musical score for measures 48-58, featuring four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The score includes various dynamics such as *pppp*, *f*, *n*, *pppp*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *fp*, and *f*. It also features hairpins, accents, and slurs. The time signature changes from 16/16 to 8/16, 6/16, 9/16, 2/8, 9/16, 7/16, and 16/16.

Musical score for measures 59-68, featuring four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The score includes various dynamics such as *ppp*, *f*, *ppp*, *ff*, *fp*, *ff*, *ppp*, *p*, *ppp*, *p*, *pppp*, *pp*, *n*, *ppp*, *p*, and *n*. It also features hairpins, accents, slurs, and a box labeled 'D'. The tempo is marked 'Tempo I (♩ = 60)'. The time signature changes from 16/16 to 8/16, 6/16, 5/16, 2/8, 5/16, 4/4, 3/4, and 5/4. Performance instructions include 'sul tasto' and 'sul pont. estr.'. A fermata is present over a note in measure 68.

Musical score for measures 70-75, featuring Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.).

**Measure 70:** Vln. 1: *p*; Vln. 2: *ppp*; Vla.: *pp*; Vlc.: *p*.

**Measure 71:** Vln. 1: *pppp*, *pp*, *n*; Vln. 2: *p*, *ppp*; Vla.: *p*, *ppp*; Vlc.: *p*.

**Measure 72:** Vln. 1: *n*, *n*; Vln. 2: *ppp*, *f*; Vla.: *ppp*, *f*; Vlc.: *n*, *f*.

**Measure 73:** Vln. 1: *f*, *sfz*; Vln. 2: *sfz*, *pppp*; Vla.: *sfz*, *jeté col legno*; Vlc.: *f*, *pppp*.

**Measure 74:** Vln. 1: *ppp*, *p*; Vln. 2: *ppp*, *pp*; Vla.: *pp*, *col legno battuto*; Vlc.: *p*, *n*.

**Measure 75:** Vln. 1: *n*, *f*; Vln. 2: *ppp*, *5*; Vla.: *mf*, *n*; Vlc.: *sfz*, *arco ord.*, *ppp*.

Performance instructions include: *sul pont. estr.*, *sul tasto*, *ord.*, *jeté col legno*, *col legno battuto*, *arco ord.*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *III.*, *arco III.*, *jeté col legno*, *pizz.*, *arco ord.*, *5*, *3*, *5*.

Musical score for measures 76-81, featuring Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.).

**Measure 76:** Vln. 1: *pp*, *mf*, *n*; Vln. 2: *mp*, *p*, *n*; Vla.: *pp*, *mp*, *n*; Vlc.: *p*, *n*.

**Measure 77:** Vln. 1: *ppp*, *pp*, *pppp*; Vln. 2: *ppp*, *pp*, *pppp*; Vla.: *ppp*, *f*; Vlc.: *f*, *sfz*.

**Measure 78:** Vln. 1: *ppp*, *p*, *n*; Vln. 2: *mp*, *n*; Vla.: *p*, *col legno battuto*; Vlc.: *sfz*, *jeté col legno*.

**Measure 79:** Vln. 1: *pp*, *mf*, *pppp*; Vln. 2: *mp*; Vla.: *mf*, *pp*; Vlc.: *p*, *pizz.*.

**Measure 80:** Vln. 1: *mp*; Vln. 2: *mp*; Vla.: *sfz*, *arco ord.*; Vlc.: *f*, *sfz*, *3*.

**Measure 81:** Vln. 1: *mp*; Vln. 2: *mf*; Vla.: *ppp*, *arco ord.*; Vlc.: *p*, *f*, *sfz*, *3*, *5*.

Performance instructions include: *arco sul pont. estr.*, *ord.*, *arco III.*, *arco III.*, *col legno battuto*, *jeté col legno*, *pizz.*, *arco ord.*, *5*, *3*, *5*.

84

Vln. 1 *ppp* *sfz* *p* *mf* *pp* *ppp* *n* *pppp* *f* *sub. pppp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *mp* *p* *n* *mp* *mf* *ppp* *sfz* *mp* *p* *pppp* *pp* *n* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *n* *sfz* *f* *p* *f* *pppp* *f* *ppp* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *sfz* *f* *p* *mf* *pp* *sfz* *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

jeté col legno col legno battuto arco

arco sul pont. estr.

5 5 5 7:4

90

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *pp* *mp* *n* *f* *p* *ff* *pppp* *p* *n*

Vln. 2 *n* *ppp* *mf* *n* *sfz* *ppp* *mf* *n* *pppp* *p*

Vla. *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *n*

Vlc. *mp* *mp* *mf* *pppp* *mp* *n* *pp* *p* *n* *p* *n* *mp* *pp*

pizz. arco pizz. arco

ord. jeté col legno arco ord.

col legno battuto arco

3-4" 3-4" 3-4" 3-4"

5 5 5 5

**F** Light, dancing (♩ = 72, ♪ = 144)

Vln. 1: *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*

Vln. 2: *ppp*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*

Vla.: *f*, *ppp*, *p*, *pppp*, *p*, *n*

Vlc.: *f*, *ppp*, *p*, *pppp*, *p*, *n mp*

Performance instructions: "lightly, at the point of the bow" (twice), "arco", "arco ord.", "pizz.", "sfz", "tr".

**G** pizz.

Vln. 1: *f*, *p*, *sfz*, *p*, *sfz*, *p*, *f*, *f*

Vln. 2: *f*, *pppp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *mf*, *pppp*, *f*, *ppp*, *mf*, *pppp*

Vla.: *fp*, *f*, *p*, *sfz*, *p*, *sfz*, *p*, *f*, *f*

Vlc.: *mf*, *n*, *p*, *f*

Performance instructions: "arco", "arco ord.", "pizz.", "sfz", "tr".



Fragile, airy (♩ = 60)

128

Violin 1 (Vln. 1): Treble clef, 8/16 to 3/4. Dynamics: pp. Features a trill (tr) at the end of measure 128 and a hairpin mark.

Violin 2 (Vln. 2): Treble clef, 8/16 to 3/4. Dynamics: mf, pppp, mp, pp, f, pppp, pp, ppp, p > pppp < pp > ppp. Includes a hairpin mark and a trill (tr).

Viola (Vla.): Bass clef, 8/16 to 3/4. Dynamics: ppp, f, ppp, f sub. pppp, pp, n, ppp < p > n. Includes markings for arco, sul pont. estr., and ord.

Violoncello (Vlc.): Bass clef, 8/16 to 3/4. Dynamics: ppp, mf, pppp, p, pppp < pp > n. Includes a marking for arco.

140

Violin 1 (Vln. 1): Treble clef, 4/4 to 5/4. Dynamics: pp >, pp <>, p > n, pp <>, p > n, pp, p > n. Includes a section marker III.

Violin 2 (Vln. 2): Treble clef, 4/4 to 5/4. Dynamics: ppp, pp < pppp >, p > pppp, mf sub. pppp, pp, mp, mp, ppp, p, pppp < p. Includes markings for sul pont. estr., sul tasto flautando, and flautando.

Viola (Vla.): Bass clef, 4/4 to 5/4. Dynamics: pp, ppp < pp >, ppp < p > n, < p > n, pppp, n < pp > n, n < pp > n, p > n, pp. Includes markings for sul pont. estr., sul tasto flautando, and arco ord.

Violoncello (Vlc.): Bass clef, 4/4 to 5/4. Dynamics: p > pp <, pppp, p > ppp < pp > n, p > mp > n, pppp, arco ord. Includes markings for arco ord., ord. Pr., N.Pr., sul pont. estr., and sul tasto flaut.

Musical score for measures 149-157, featuring four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The score includes various performance instructions such as *sul pont. estr.*, *sul tasto flautando*, *ord.*, *shimmering*, *arco ord.*, and *3-4"*. Dynamic markings include *ppp*, *mp*, *p*, *pppp*, *pp*, *n*, and *pppp < pp > n*. The Vln. 2 staff includes a *7:4* marking. The Vln. 1 staff has a *3-4"* marking at the end. The Vln. 2 staff has a *3-4"* marking at the end. The Vla. staff has a *3-4"* marking at the end. The Vlc. staff has a *3-4"* marking at the end.

Musical score for measures 158-166, featuring four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The score includes various performance instructions such as *sul tasto flautando*, *ord.*, *arco ord.*, *half col legno*, and *sul tasto flautando al fine*. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *n*, *pppp*, *pp*, *p*, *pppp < mp > n*, *pppp*, *pp*, *p*, *n*, *pppp*, *pp*, *n*, *pppp*, *pp*, *n*, *pppp*, *pp*, *n*, and *pppp < p > n*. The Vln. 1 staff has a *158* marking at the beginning. The Vln. 1 staff has a *half col legno* marking at the end. The Vln. 2 staff has a *arco ord. IV.* marking at the end. The Vla. staff has a *sul tasto flautando al fine* marking at the end. The Vlc. staff has a *sul tasto flautando* marking at the beginning.