

PROGRAM NOTE

SERIOUS SONG is essentially an extended aria for string orchestra. There are three main sections in the composition. The first begins very slowly and quietly with a unison statement of the main thematic material in all of the violins, developing that material subsequently in a flowing, freely contrapuntal style. The tonal implications are in the main E phrygian.

The second section, which is the longest, presents a contrasting theme in the first violins with accompaniment figuration in the violas and counter melodic fragments in the cellos and second violins. The tonality is C minor. The internal organization of this section is essentially A B A prime, the B sub-section being characterized by considerable development and tonal digression. The return of the contrasting theme occurs at a climactic moment, but the music goes on to achieve a main climax just before the commencement of the third main section of the composition.

This last section is coda-like in character. The texture is simplified to melody and an accompaniment consisting almost entirely of *tremolando* and *pizzicato* effects over a fairly static harmony. The tonality is E major for the most part, but occasionally ambiguously major-minor. The ending is extremely quiet, slightly slower than the beginning, and fading away to E, *ppp*.

The work, written in 1955, was commissioned by and dedicated to the Louisville Orchestra.

I. F.

First performed November 16, 1955 at Louisville, Kentucky
by the Louisville Orchestra under the direction of Robert Whitney.

SERIOUS SONG

A Lament for String Orchestra

Irving Fine
(1955)

Duration: 9:15 - 9:45 minutes

Andante quasi adagio, molto cantabile (♩. = about 46, in 2)

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass, measures 1-9. The score is in 2/4 time and features a melodic line for the violins. The first violin part is marked *p espr., molto legato* and includes a fermata over the first measure. The second violin part is also marked *p espr., molto legato*. The Viola, Violoncello, and Bass parts are currently silent.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass, measures 10-14. Measure 10 is marked with a box containing the number 10. The first violin part is marked *mp*. The second violin part is marked *mp* and *espr.*. The Viola part is marked *mp espr., molto legato* and includes a tremolo. The Violoncello part is marked *mp* and *trem. div.*. The Bass part is marked *p* and *espr.*. The score includes various performance instructions such as *pizz.*, *arco*, and *fizz.*.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass, measures 15-20. Measure 15 is marked with a box containing the number 15, and measure 20 is marked with a box containing the number 20. The first violin part is marked *pp* and *poco*. The second violin part is marked *pp* and *trem.*. The Viola part is marked *pp*. The Violoncello part is marked *pp* and *p dolce*. The Bass part is marked *p* and *pp*. The score includes various performance instructions such as *arco unis.* and *poco*.

Poco animato

25

Vln. I *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

Vln. II *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

Vla. *poco a poco cresc.* *mf* *div. tremolo* *unis.*

Vcl. *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

Bass *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

30

Vln. I *f* *mf* *molto rit.*

Vln. II *f* *mp* *molto rit.*

Vla. *f* *mp* *molto rit.*

Vcl. *f* *mf* *molto rit.*

Bass *f* *mf* *molto rit.*

Tempo I

35

Poco più mosso (♩. = ca. 54)

Vln. I *mp* *arco*

Vln. II *pp* *pizz.*

Vla. *pespr.* *poco* *poco* *poco*

Vcl. div. *pp* *pizz.* *arco trem.* *pp* *pizz.* *mp*

Bass div. *pp* *mp* *pizz.*

40

Vln. I *poco a poco cresc.*
arco
 Vln. II *poco a poco cresc.*
 Vla. *poco a poco cresc.*
 Vcl. div. *poco a poco cresc.*
 Bass *unis.*
p cresc.

accel.

45

Vln. I *f sempre poco a poco accel.*
 Vln. II *f sempre poco a poco accel.*
 Vla. *div.*
 Vcl. *unis.*
 Bass *f sempre poco a poco accel.*

f marcato

ca. 66 *ca. 80*

50

Vln. I *sempre f*
 Vln. II *sempre f*
 Vla. *f*
 Vcl. *f*
 Bass *f*

poco allarg.

Meno mosso (♩. = 58)

55

Vln.I *sfz espr.*

Vln.II *sfz sempre f espr.*

Vla. *sfz sempre f*

Vel. *sfz sempre f*

Bass *sfz mf*

60

Vln.I *p*

Vln.II *mf p sfz p*

Vla. *mp sfz mf f sfz mf*

Vel. *sfz mp f sfz sfz mp*

Bass *mp f sfz sfz mp*

pizz.

arco v

2

Stesso tempo (♩. = 58)

65

Vln.I *mf dolce espr.*

Vln.II *arco div. mp p*

Vla. *arco mf pp P leggiero*

Vel. *arco mp p arco espr. p*

Bass *pizz.*

arco

2

70

Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vcl.
Bass

Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vcl.
Bass

mp poco cresc. dim. - - mp
unis. v mp espr. poco cresc. dim. - - p mp
poco cresc.
poco cresc. dim. - - mf mp
arco v poco cresc. dim. - - p

75

Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vcl.
Bass

p dolce
sempre espr. poco cresc.
mp sempre leggiero poco cresc.
mp p piz. arco poco cresc.
piz. p

Poco più mosso (♩. = ca.68)

molto leggiero

Vln.I div. *mp* *pp* 3

Vln.II *mp* *pp* 3

Vla. *mp cantando*

Vel. div. *mp* 3 *p*

Bass *mp cantando* arco div. *p leggiero ma legato*

80

Vln.I div. *poco cresc.* 3

Vln.II *mp espr.*

Vla. *v*

Vel. div. *pp molto leggiero* 3 *p*

Bass

Vln.I div. *espr.*

Vln.II *mf*

Vla. *unif.*

Vel. *unif.* *mp* 3

Bass *unif.*

85

unis. (a) *mf* (b) *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. div.

Vcl.

Bass

Vln. I div. *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. div. *marcato* *sub. mp espr.*

Vcl. *sub. mp espr.*

Bass

90

Vln. I div. *poco cresc.* *mf* *poco sf* *sf*

Vln. II *poco cresc.* *mf* *poco sf* *sf*

Vla. div. *poco cresc.* *f* *poco sf* *sf*

Vcl. *poco cresc.* *f* *poco sf* *sf*

Bass *mf* *leggero marcato*

First system of musical notation (measures 88-94). The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass. Performance markings include *non div.*, *f espr.*, *mp*, *unis.*, *mf con brio*, and *mp dolce*. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4.

Second system of musical notation (measures 95-101). The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass. Performance markings include *mf*, *mf espr.*, *cresc.*, and *mf*. A measure number box containing "95" is located above the Violin I staff. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4.

Third system of musical notation (measures 102-108). The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass. Performance markings include *cresc.*. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4.

Agitato (♩ = 72)

100

non div.

sf *f*

Vln.I

Vln.II div.

nondiv.

sf *sf sempre* *ff*

Vla.

f *ff agitato*

Vcl.

ff agitato

Bass

105

Vln.I

Vln.II div.

Vla.

Vcl.

Bass

div.

ff

Vln.I

Vln.II div.

Vla.

pizz. div. *ff* *unis.*

Vcl.

pizz. div. *ff* *unis.*

Bass

110

Vln. I *poco allargando*

Vln. II div. *poco allargando*

Vla. *poco allargando*

Vcl. arco v *poco allargando*

Bass arco v *poco allargando*

Tempo agitato, poco meno mosso (♩. = 66 - 68)

Vln. I unis. v *ff* 115

Vln. II unis. v *ff*

Vla. non div. *ff* div.

Vcl. *f*

Bass *f*

Vln. I *sempre ff*

Vln. II *sempre ff*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f*

Bass *f*

120 *poco a poco più anim. e cresc.*

Vln. I *ff* *sub. meno f*

Vln. II *ff* *poco a poco più anim. e cresc.* *sub. meno f*

Vla. *unis.* *ff* *non div.* *poco a poco più anim. e cresc.* *sub. meno f*

Vcl. *div.* *ff* *unis.* *poco a poco più anim. e cresc.* *sub. meno f*

Bass *ff* *f* *sub. meno f*

130

Vln. I *f e sempre cresc.*

Vln. II *f e sempre cresc.*

Vla. *f e sempre cresc.*

Vcl. *f e sempre cresc.*

Bass

Tempo I (♩ = 40)

135

Vln. I *poco rall.* *ff*

Vln. II *poco rall.* *ff*

Vla. *poco rall.* *ff*

Vcl. *poco rall.* *ff*

Bass *poco rall.* *ff*

140

div. in 8

mp *pp* *mp* *poco rit.*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. div.

Vcl. div.

A tempo (♩ = 40 - 44)

145

unis. *p dolce espr.*

div. tremolo *pp*

unis. pizz. *mp* arco *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Bass

150

p dolce espr.

unis. *p dolce espr.*

div. trem. *pp*

p

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Bass

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Bass

poco rit.
div. trem.
pp
poco rit.
poco rit.
poco rit.
poco rit.

155
A tempo

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Bass

Stesso tempo

pp
sempre div.
arco
p espr.
pizz.
pp

160

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Bass

crescendo
poco a poco
diminuendo
crescendo
poco a poco
diminuendo

Musical score for measures 158-164. The score is for five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vcl. div., and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. Vln. I has a *pp* dynamic and a *v* (accent) over the first measure. Vln. II has *pp* and *unis. trem.* markings. Vla. has *pp* and *poco* markings. Vcl. div. has *arco pp espr.* and *poco* markings. Bass has *pp espr.* and *poco* markings. There are double bar lines with repeat signs at the beginning and end of the system.

Musical score for measures 165-169. The score is for five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla. div., Vcl. div., and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. Measure 165 is marked with a box containing the number 165. Vln. I has a *pp* dynamic. Vln. II has a *pp* dynamic. Vla. div. has *p dolce espr.* and *pp* markings. Vcl. div. has *p dolce espr.* and *p* markings. Bass has *p* and *pp* markings. There are double bar lines with repeat signs at the beginning and end of the system.

Musical score for measures 170-174. The score is for five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vcl. div., and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. Measure 170 is marked with a box containing the number 170. Vln. I and Vln. II have *rit.* markings. Vla. has *ppp* and *rit.* markings. Vcl. div. has *mp* and *poco sfz* markings. Bass has *mp* and *poco sfz* markings. There are double bar lines with repeat signs at the beginning and end of the system.