

Viola soloist

Gwyneth Walker

The Viola Speaks

for Viola solo and String Ensemble

“Rhythmic Conversation”

“Lyrical Conversation”

“Enjoying the Intervals”

“Moment of Finality”

Program Notes

Duration: 10 minutes

The Viola Speaks is a set of four short movements for solo viola and string ensemble. It is envisioned that the Violist will lead (conduct) the other players from the stage. And thus, in the *lead role*, the viola *speaks* as a guide.

In addition, the *speaking* takes the form of conversation, exchanging musical material between soloist and ensemble. The back-and-forth discussions are rhythmic (in the first movement) and lyrical (second movement).

In the third movement, the soloist leads the ensemble in an exploration of intervals – first the seconds, then the thirds. Much delight is taken in focusing on one interval, and then the next. At the end, the soloist enjoys settling into a *peaceful second*.

“A Moment of Finality” is energetic and forceful. Abrasive chords punctuate the music. This movement is an exclamation point to the entire suite!

The Viola Speaks

for Viola Solo and String Ensemble

Gwyneth Walker

1. Rhythmic Conversation

Energetic ♩ = 132
as touches of rhythm

p

4 *pizz.* *arco*

9 **A** *energetic descent*

mf

13 *jagged*

16 **B**

20 **C**

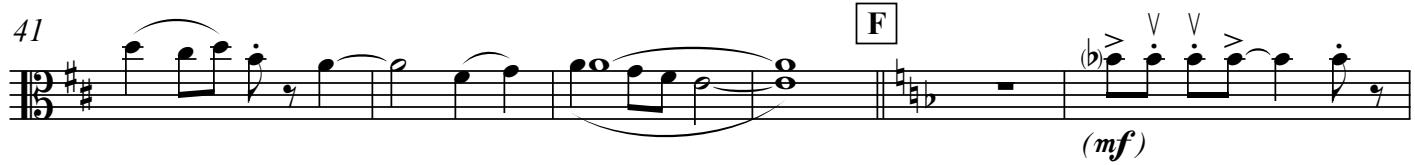
p

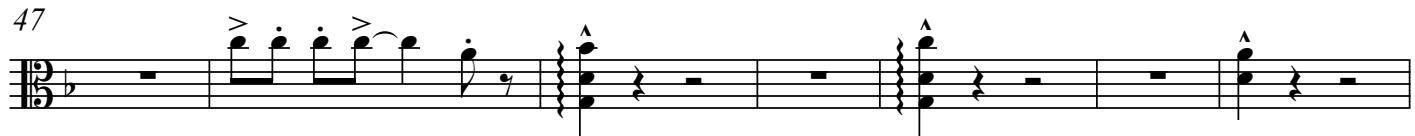
27 **D**

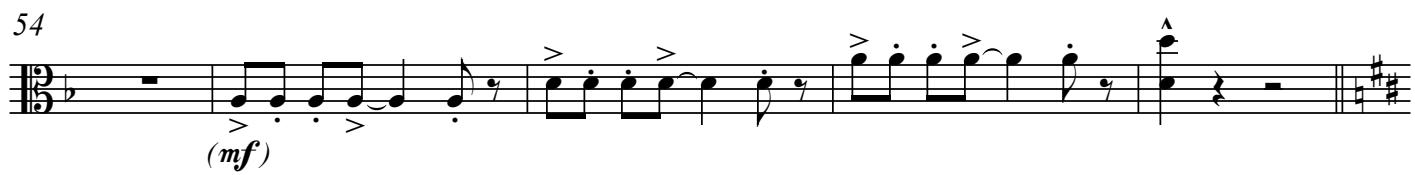
cresc. poco a poco

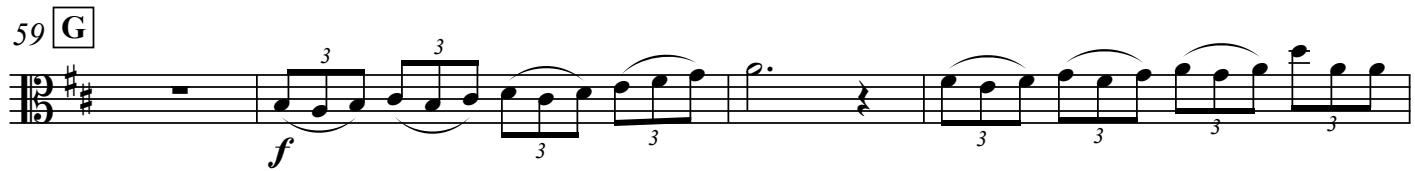
*The Viola Speaks – Viola Solo***E** Flowing

35 

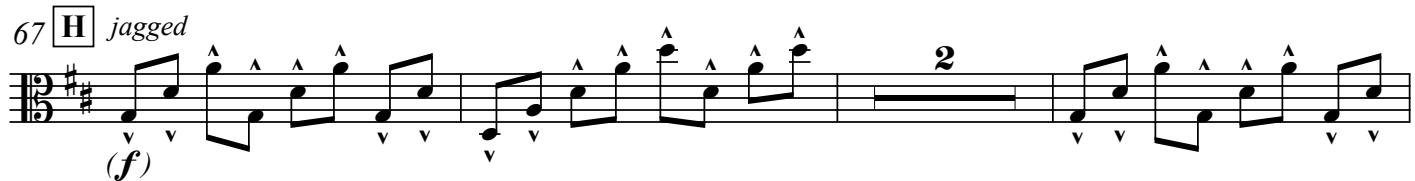
41 

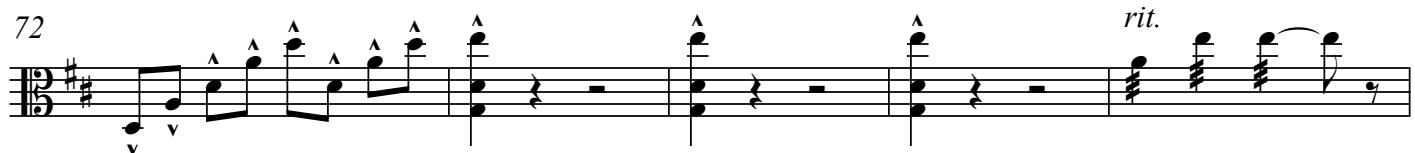
47 

54 

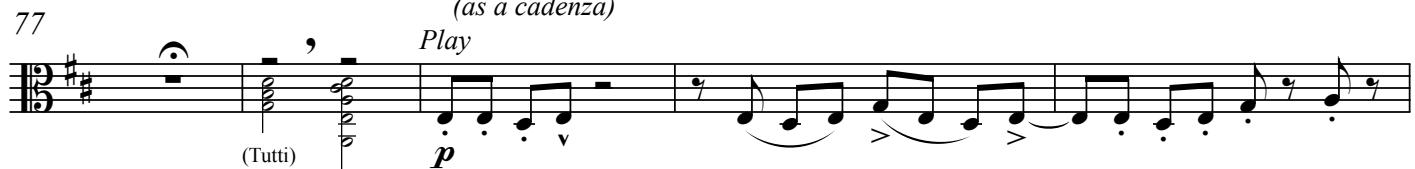
59 **G** 

63 

67 **H** jagged 

72 

Slowly **I** Free tempo, not too slow
(as a cadenza)

77 

82

86 *accel. poco a poco (to K)*

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

90 **J**
 (accel.)

(cresc.)

94 **K** *Quickly*
 (accel.)

98 **f**

2. Lyrical Conversation

Freely, fragments of introduction

lightly . rit. *a tempo* rit.

5 *a tempo* rit. *a tempo* rit.

9 With motion ♩ = 132

15

22

27

33 C (Vln. 1)

Play

39 D

44

The Viola Speaks – Viola Solo

5

50

E

(mf) 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

55

59

F

63

G With intensity

69

H

f

74

79

2

3

I rit. and fade to end

85

V V

mf mp

(rit.)

91

very lightly, feathery

p pp

Hold pose

3. Enjoying the Intervals (Seconds and Thirds)

Quickly, with joy $\text{♩} = 160$

*gently tap instr.,
to set the tempo for this movement*

2 2 (Vla. enters)

9 **A** p *mf playfully*

14 **B** 2

21 **C** 2 p *mf*

28 **D** 2

35

40 *rit.* [The Violist hears and enjoys the 3rds] **E** At a peaceful tempo $\text{♩} = 60$ $\gg p$

46 *mp*

53 **F** *mf*

The musical score consists of six staves of viola music. Staff 1 starts with a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 160$, dynamic p , and includes a instruction to "gently tap instr., to set the tempo for this movement". Staff 2 begins at measure 9 with dynamic *mf playfully*. Staff 3 begins at measure 14 with dynamic **B** and a 2 over the staff. Staff 4 begins at measure 21 with dynamic **C**, a 2 over the staff, and dynamics p followed by *mf*. Staff 5 begins at measure 28 with dynamic **D** and a 2 over the staff. Staff 6 begins at measure 35. Staff 7 begins at measure 40 with dynamic *rit.*, a instruction "[The Violist hears and enjoys the 3rds]", dynamic **E**, a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 60$, and dynamics $\gg p$. Staff 8 begins at measure 46 with dynamic *mp*. Staff 9 begins at measure 53 with dynamic **F** and *mf*.

60

rit.

G Quickly, with joy (as before) $\text{d} = 160$ $\text{d} = 80$

H

I scampering

J

[peacefully
enjoying the 2nd]

cresc.

III

4. Moment of Finality

With energy $\sigma = 100$

(Vlns. & Vla.)

3

8 **A**
Play (Vlc.)

13 **B**

18

24 **C**
Play (Vlc.) **p**

29

33 **D**
mp

37

41 **E**
f

46

53 **F**

59 (Vla.) *Play* (Vla.)

65 *Play* **G**

70

75 **H**

82 (Vlns. & Vla.) **I**

86

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

J *accel. poco a poco (to K)*

90 *(cresc.)*

94 *(accel.)*

(cresc.)

K *Quickly*

98 *ff* [$\frac{8}{8}$] *p* *ff*