

Gwyneth Walker

Close to Home

Sounds of New England
for Viola and Guitar

Thanksgiving
Fallen Leaves
Rhythms

*commissioned by the Alturas Duo
Carlos Boltes, Viola
Scott Hill, Guitar*

*for premiere at the Connecticut Guitar Festival
February 10, 2019
Westport, CT*

These duets for Viola and Guitar were composed in a New England folk music style characterized by simplicity of language, and sparseness of texture. The rural landscape speaks through the notes.

Since the music was composed during the Autumn of 2018, indeed started on Thanksgiving Day (!), there is a youthful purity to the opening movement (as if remembering Thanksgiving days from childhood). This is simply a melody for Viola, accompanied by Guitar. The theme is exchanged between the instruments, a rhythmic section serves as an interlude, and the theme returns with more full accompaniment.

A connection to the second movement, "Fallen Leaves," incorporates the tuning down of the Guitar lowest string to D with a *falling* Viola *glissando*. The theme itself is marked *mournfully*, and is exchanged between Guitar and Viola. The middle section features chromatic descending chords and arpeggios in Guitar.

"Rhythms" starts calmly, with Guitar tuning back up to E. This is followed by the Guitarist enjoying tapping the strings, treating the Guitar as a percussion instrument. Viola joins in this percussion exploration of sounds. The New England inspiration for this movement comes from the joy of rhythm as a life force.

Close to Home

Duets for Viola and Guitar

Gwyneth Walker

1. Thanksgiving

Flowing tempo ♩ = 144

Viola

Guitar

mf

5 **A**

Vla.

mf cantabile

Gtr.

9

Vla.

Gtr.

13

Vla.

Gtr.

17

Vla.

Gtr.

B

21

Vla.

Gtr.

26

Vla.

Gtr.

31

Vla.

Gtr.

35

Vla.

Gtr.

C

39

Vla. *sul tasto*

Gtr. *p* *short and rhythmic*

43

Vla.

Gtr.

ord.

47

Vla. *cresc. poco a poco*

Gtr. *cresc. poco a poco*

51
 Vla. *(cresc.)*
 Gtr. *(cresc.)*

55 **D**
 Vla. *(cresc.)* *f* *strum*
 Gtr. *(cresc.)* *f*

60
 Vla.
 Gtr.

64
 Vla.
 Gtr.

69 *poco rit.* **E** *Slightly slower, more freely, as a cadenza*
 Vla. *let ring*
 Gtr.

73 *more rit.*
 Vla. *3*
 Gtr. *3*

77 *a tempo*
 Vla.
 Gtr.

Interlude

Slowly ♩ = 108

Slowly, mournfully
con sord. as fallen leaves

mf *p* *pp* echo

trem. finger taps
on body of guitar

Tune: E ↓ D

p

8

tremolo gliss. ad lib.

gliss.

tap body

finger tremolo

0:35

2. Fallen Leaves

Slightly faster ♩ = 116 (or slower)

(VI ↓ D)
gently, mournfully

p

9

A

with sorrow

p

15

pizz.

p

arco

pizz.

B

22

Vla. *arco*
mf

Gtr.

28 *lightly separate*

Vla.

Gtr. *mf*

34

Vla.

Gtr.

C

39

Vla. *cresc.* *f*

Gtr. *cresc.* *f*

45

Vla.

Gtr.

52 *via sord.*

Vla.

Gtr.

D*senza sord.
lightly separate*

59

Vla. *p*

Gtr. *p*

65

Vla.

Gtr.

71

Vla. *cresc.*

Gtr. *cresc.*

77 **E**

Vla. *f*

Gtr. *f*

83

Vla.

Gtr.

89 **F**

Vla. *p* *f*

Gtr. *p* *f*

95

Vla. *p f*

Gtr. *p f*

99

Vla. *p f* *more freely*

Gtr. *p f*

103

Vla.

Gtr. Bar V Bar VIII

109

Vla. *long tremolo gliss.* *gliss.* **G** *p sub.* *f*

Gtr. *f*

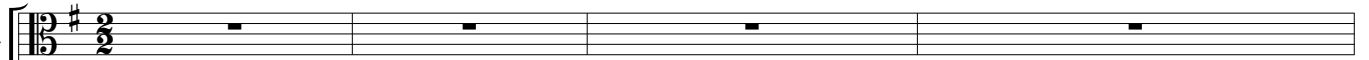
115

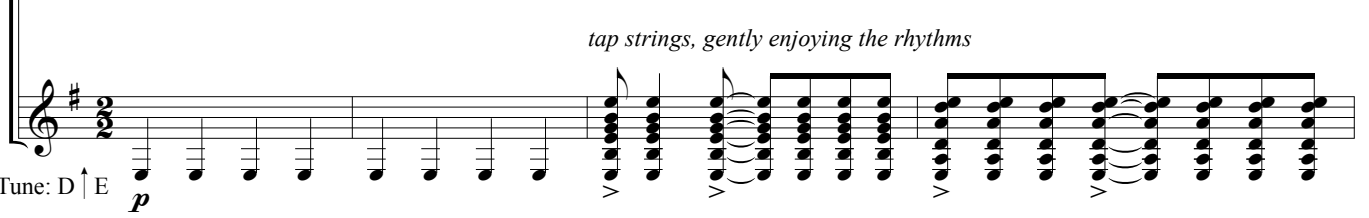
Vla. *rit.* *dim. to end*

Gtr. *dim. to end* 2:45

3. Rhythms


Leisurely tempo $\text{♩} = 66$


Vla. 

Gtr. 

Tune: D | E *p*


tap strings, gently enjoying the rhythms


5 


Gtr. 

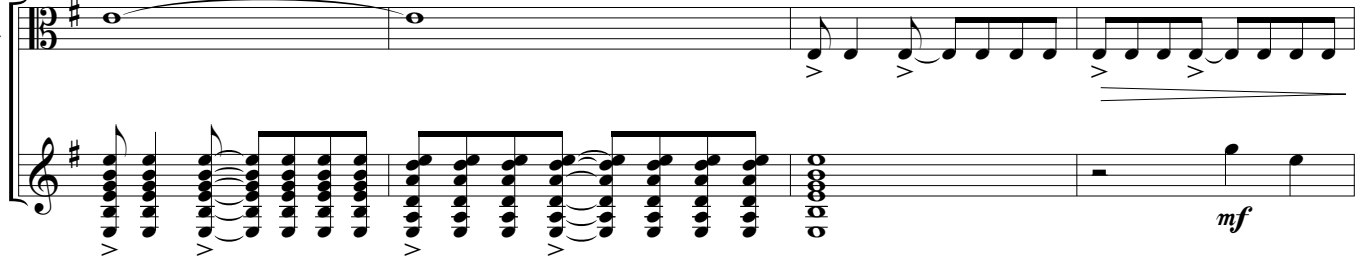
mp

A

9 

Gtr. 

13 

Gtr. 

mf

17 **B** 

Gtr. 

p

21

Vla. *mf*

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 21 to 24. The Violin (Vla.) part is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melodic line with accents and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Guitar (Gtr.) part is in treble clef, mirroring the violin's melody with accents and a similar dynamic.

25

Vla.

Gtr. *tap strings*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 25 to 28. The Violin (Vla.) part is in bass clef, playing a sustained note with a long slur. The Guitar (Gtr.) part is in treble clef, featuring a complex rhythmic pattern of chords and a section labeled *tap strings* with many sixteenth notes.

29

Vla. C

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 29 to 32. The Violin (Vla.) part is in bass clef and contains a box labeled 'C' above a long slur. The Guitar (Gtr.) part is in treble clef, continuing the *tap strings* pattern with many chords.

33

Vla. *mf*

Gtr. VII

Detailed description: This system covers measures 33 to 36. The Violin (Vla.) part is in bass clef, playing a melodic line with accents and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Guitar (Gtr.) part is in treble clef, playing chords with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a Roman numeral 'VII' above a chord.

37

Vla.

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 37 to 41. The Violin (Vla.) part is in treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents. The Guitar (Gtr.) part is in treble clef, playing chords and a rhythmic pattern.

42

Vla.

Gtr. *slide D → B*
slide B → A

Detailed description: This system covers measures 42 to 45. The Violin (Vla.) part is in treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents. The Guitar (Gtr.) part is in treble clef, playing chords and a rhythmic pattern, with two slide instructions: *slide D → B* and *slide B → A*.

47 **D**

Vla. *f*
tap strings

Gtr. *f*

51

Vla.

Gtr.

55 **E**

Vla. *p*
tap instrument with thumb and finger
on 2 different locations

Gtr. *p*

60 **F** tap instrument, add rhythms, ad lib.

Vla. *p*
add rhythms, ad lib.

Gtr.

65 **G** more animated

Vla. *cresc. poco a poco*

Gtr. *cresc. poco a poco*

H

70 **I**

Vla. *(cresc.)*
tremolo gliss.
gliss.

Gtr. *(cresc.)*
finger tremolo, on body of instr.

f

75

Vla.

Gtr.

79 **J** *keep up energy to the end*

Vla.

Gtr. *tap strings*

83

Vla.

Gtr.

87 *accel. to end, with much energy*

Vla.

Gtr.

91 *(accel.)*

Vla. *knock*

Gtr. *move down finger board away from hole*
mute (grab fingerboard)