

Alexandra Gardner

Crows

clarinet in Bb, violin, cello, piano

(1998)

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

alexandragardner.net

A. Gardner Music

About Crows

Crows is dedicated to the SOLI Chamber Ensemble. Inspired by the writings of poet Joy Harjo, each movement is based upon a short excerpt that describes some aspect of life in the desert southwest. These excerpts serve as a starting point for the creation of five musical landscapes.

I. red earth

“My house is the red earth; it could be the center of the world. I’ve heard New York, Paris or Tokyo called the center of the world, but I say it is magnificently humble. You could drive by and miss it. Radio waves can obscure it. Words cannot construct it, for there are some sounds left to sacred wordless form...”

II. clusters

“We fly into the body and we fly out, changed by the sun, by crows who manipulate the borders of reason...”

III. silver breaths

“I see the flash of silver breaths on the wing of the sky, and hear the explosion of a thousand horses running...”

IV. invocation

“I think of the lush stillness of the end of a world, sung into place by singers and the rattle of turtles in the dark morning...”

V. drying stone

“Invisible fish swim this ghost ocean now described by waves of sound, by water-worn rock. Soon the fish will learn to walk. Then humans will come ashore and paint dreams on the drying stone. Then later, much later, the ocean floor will be punctuated by Chevy trucks, carrying the dreamers’ descendants, who are going to the store.”

Poetry by Joy Harjo, from *Secrets from the Center of the World* (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1989) and *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1994).

In the Indigenous American tradition, the crow represents the gateway to the supernatural, possessing the ability to see simultaneously past, present, and future. While writing this piece, I often wondered how these birds (which appear frequently in Harjo’s poetry) might experience the journey through these musical expanses from their unique perspective.

First Performance

May 8, 1998, at Trinity University
San Antonio, TX
SOLI Chamber Ensemble

Duration

ca. 19 minutes

Score in C

*commissioned by the SOLI Chamber Ensemble
with support from the Mid-America Arts Alliance/Meet the Composer*

Duration: ca. 19'

Crows

I. red earth

Alexandra Gardner

12

vibrato ~~~~~

cl. *mp* *pp* *p* *mf* *p* *p*

vn. *pp* *pp* *mf*

vc. *p* *mp* *p* *p*

pno. *p* *ppp*

17

3

cl. *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p* *p*

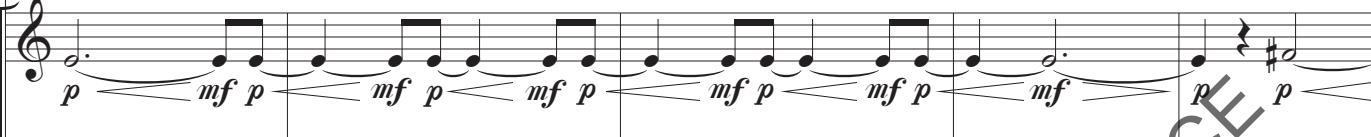
vn. *p* *p* *mf* 3

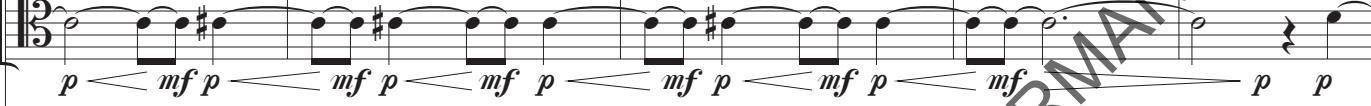
vc. *mf* *mp* *mf* 3

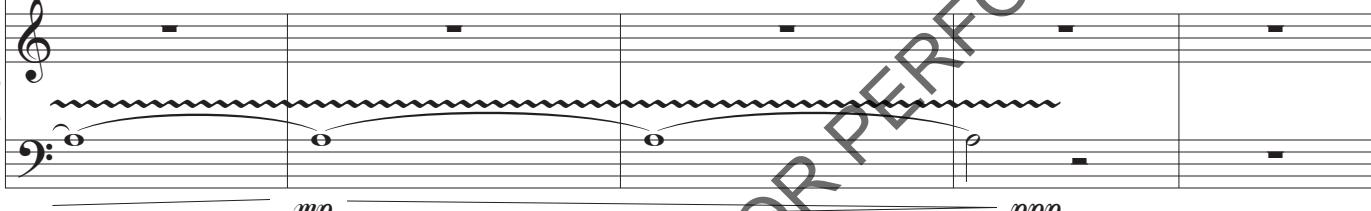
pno. 6 l.v. *mf* *Led.* *tr* *tr* *ppp* *

22

cl. 

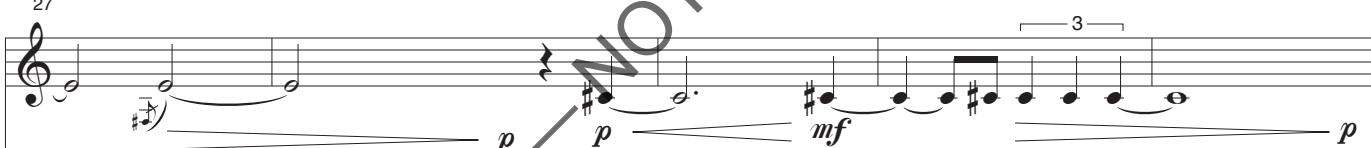
vn. 

vc. 

pno. 

PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

27

cl. 

vn. 

vc. 

pno. 

PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

mf
Red.

32

cl. *tr.* *p* *mf*

vn. 3 3 3 *tr.* *p* *p* *mf*

vc. *sul pont.* *p*

pno. *mf* l.v. *Reo.*

36

cl. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

vn. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

vc. *ord.* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

pno. *tr.* *pp* *mp*

*

40

cl. *mf p* *mf p* *f* *p*

vn. *mf p* *mf p* *f* *p*

vc. *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *p* *mf*

pno. *pp*

tr ~~~~~ *tr* ~~~~~

gliss.

6 l.v. *mf*

Red.

45

cl. *mf* *pp*

vn. *p* *p* *mp* *ppp*

vc. *p* *p* *mp* *ppp*

pno. *tr* ~~~~~ *tr* ~~~~~

PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

II. clusters

Crows

1 $\text{J} = 76$ ca.

cl. tremolo as fast as possible *ppp* — *p* — *p*

vn. *ff* — *p* — *ff* — *ff*

vc. tremolo as fast as possible *ff* — *p* — *ff*

pno. *ff* — *ff* l.v. *sempre*
slap strings inside piano with palm

Red.

7

cl. *ff* — *f* — *f*

vln. *mp* — *ff* — *f* — *f*

vc. *mp* — *ff* — *f* — *f*

pno. *ff* — *f*

Red. *Red.*

12

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

6 3

6 3

Red.

16

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

Red.

Musical score page 22. The score includes four staves: Clarinet (cl.) in G clef, Violin (vln.) in G clef, Cello (vc.) in F clef, and Piano (pno.) in G clef. The piano staff is grouped by a brace. Measure 22 starts with a dynamic of *p*. The clarinet has two eighth-note grace marks with a curved line connecting them. The violin and cello staves are mostly blank. The piano staff shows a bass note at the start, followed by a dynamic of *ppp* and a sustained note with a dynamic of *dolce*. The piano part continues with dynamics of *pp*, *mf*, and *mp*. The page is stamped with "FOR PERFORMANCE".

33

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

This section of the score consists of four staves. The Clarinet (cl.) has a single note followed by three sustained notes. The Violin (vln.) plays sixteenth-note patterns. The Cello (vc.) and Piano (pno.) provide harmonic support. Measure 33 ends with a dynamic *p*. Measures 34 and 35 continue with similar patterns, ending with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *f* respectively. The piano part includes dynamic markings *mp* and *f*, and performance instructions *3*, *3*, *3*, *3*, *Red.*, and *Red.*

38

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

This section continues with four staves. The Clarinet remains silent. The Violin's melodic line is supported by the Cello and Piano. Measure 38 begins with dynamics *pp* and *mp*. Measures 39 and 40 show the violin playing eighth-note patterns, with dynamics *mp* and *f*. The piano part includes dynamic markings *mp* and *f*, and performance instructions *3*, *3*, *3*, *3*, *Red.*, and *Red.*

44

cl.

vln. *pp*

vc. *f* *mp*

pno. *f* *mf*

Red. *Red.*

A musical score page featuring four staves. The top staff is for Clarinet (cl.), which has four empty measures. The second staff is for Violin (vln.), starting with a grace note followed by eighth-note pairs. The third staff is for Cello (vc.), with eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is for Piano (pno.), showing bass and treble clef staves with dynamic changes and a measure ending with a fermata over three measures. A large diagonal watermark reading "OPERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE" is overlaid across the page.

49

cl.

vln. *p*

vc. 6

pno. *ff* *f*

tr. *ff* *f*

ff *f*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

A musical score page featuring four staves. The top staff is for Clarinet (cl.), which has four empty measures. The second staff is for Violin (vln.), starting with a grace note followed by eighth-note pairs. The third staff is for Cello (vc.), with eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is for Piano (pno.), showing bass and treble clef staves with dynamic changes and a measure ending with a fermata over three measures. A large diagonal watermark reading "OPERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE" is overlaid across the page.

Musical score page 53-57 featuring four staves: Clarinet (cl.), Violin (vln.), Cello (vc.), and Piano (pno.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *pp*, *f*, and *ff*. Measure 53: Clarinet rests. Violin plays sixteenth-note patterns with dynamics *pp* and *p*. Cello plays eighth-note patterns with dynamics *p* and *p*. Piano dynamic *f* with a pedaling instruction. Measure 54: Clarinet rests. Violin continues sixteenth-note patterns. Cello continues eighth-note patterns. Piano rests. Measure 55: Clarinet rests. Violin continues sixteenth-note patterns. Cello continues eighth-note patterns. Piano rests. Measure 56: Clarinet rests. Violin continues sixteenth-note patterns. Cello continues eighth-note patterns. Piano rests. Measure 57: Clarinet dynamic *p* with a pedaling instruction. Violin dynamic *pp*. Cello dynamic *f*. Piano dynamic *pp*. Measure 58: Clarinet rests. Violin rests. Cello rests. Piano rests.

63

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

pp

mf

mf

l.v.

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

mf

l.v.

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

1 Wildly! $\text{♩} = 112$ ca.

cl. ff sempre

vn. ff sempre

vc. ff sempre

Wildly! $\text{♩} = 112$ ca.

pno. ff sempre

cl. tr

vln. mf

vc. mf

pno. mf

PERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

(* always whole-step trills

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 9-12. The score includes parts for Clarinet (cl.), Violin (vln.), Cello (vc.), and Piano (pno.). The score consists of two systems of music.

System 1 (Measures 9-11):

- Measure 9:** Clarinet (cl.) plays a sustained note with dynamic *mf*. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play sustained notes with dynamic *tr*. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note chords with dynamic *ff*.
- Measure 10:** Clarinet (cl.) and Violin (vln.) play sustained notes with dynamic *mf*. Cello (vc.) plays a sustained note with dynamic *tr*. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note chords with dynamic *ff*.
- Measure 11:** Clarinet (cl.) and Violin (vln.) play sustained notes with dynamic *mf*. Cello (vc.) plays a sustained note with dynamic *tr*. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note chords with dynamic *ff*.

System 2 (Measures 12-14):

- Measure 12:** Clarinet (cl.) plays a sustained note with dynamic *sffz f*. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play sustained notes with dynamic *sffz*. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note chords with dynamic *f sempre*.
- Measure 13:** Clarinet (cl.) and Violin (vln.) play sustained notes with dynamic *p*. Cello (vc.) plays a sustained note with dynamic *p*. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note chords with dynamic *p*.
- Measure 14:** Clarinet (cl.) and Violin (vln.) play sustained notes with dynamic *sffz*. Cello (vc.) plays a sustained note with dynamic *p*. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note chords with dynamic *f*.

Text Overlays:

- A large diagonal watermark "PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE" is present across the page.
- Small text "Red." is located near the bottom of the piano staff in Measure 11 and Measure 14.

Musical score for orchestra and piano, featuring parts for Clarinet (cl.), Violin (vln.), Cello (vc.), and Piano (pno.). The score consists of two systems of music.

System 1 (Measures 18-23):

- Cl.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills.
- vln.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills, dynamic **f sempre**.
- vc.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills.
- pno.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills, dynamic **f sempre**.

System 2 (Measures 24-29):

- cl.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills.
- vln.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills.
- vc.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills.
- pno.**: Playing eighth-note pairs with trills, dynamic **mf**, followed by sustained notes.

A large diagonal watermark reading "PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE" is overlaid across both systems.

39

cl. 

vln.

vc.

pno.

44

cl. 

vln.

vc.

pno.

PERUSAL SCORE

NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

50

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

56

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Measure 50: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *pp*. Measure 51: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *pp*. Measure 52: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *f*. Measure 53: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *ff*. Measure 54: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *p*. Measure 55: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *f*. Measure 56: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *f*. Measure 57: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *p*. Measure 58: Clarinet (cl.) plays eighth-note pairs. Violin (vln.) and Cello (vc.) play eighth-note pairs. Piano (pno.) plays eighth-note pairs. Dynamic: *f*.

60

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

63

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

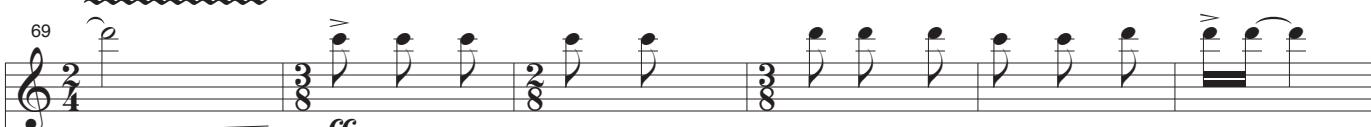
presto possible

pp

PERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

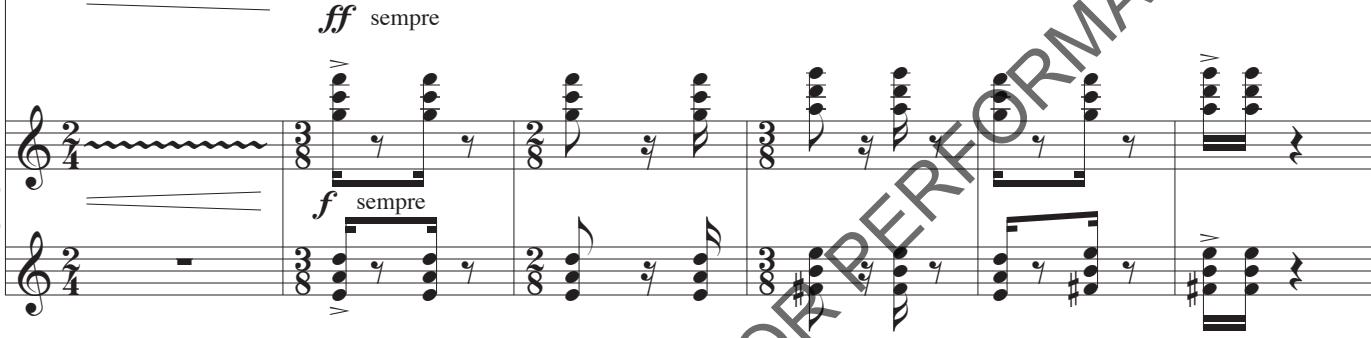
This musical score page contains two systems of music. The first system (measures 60-62) starts with a clarinet (cl.) part featuring eighth-note patterns. The violin (vln.) and cello (vc.) provide harmonic support with sustained notes. The piano (pno.) part consists of sustained notes. The second system (measures 63-65) begins with a dynamic of ff (fortissimo) for the clarinet, followed by f (forte) and tr (trill) markings. The violin and cello also play trills over sustained notes from the piano. The piano part includes a dynamic instruction 'presto possible' and 'pp' (pianissimo). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines and measures by horizontal bar lines. Time signatures change from 60 to 3, then to 8, then to 3 again, and finally to 4 in the second system. Measures 63-65 are grouped under a common measure line.

69

cl. 

vln. 

vc. 

pno. 

75

cl. 

vln. 

vc. 

pno. 

PERUSAL SCORE *NOT FOR PERFORMANCE*

81

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

presto possible

86

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, measures 91-92.

Measure 91: Clarinet (cl.) and Violin (vln.) play eighth-note chords in unison at ***ff***. Cello (vc.) rests.

Measure 92: Clarinet (cl.) and Violin (vln.) play eighth-note chords in unison at ***ff***. Cello (vc.) rests.

Piano (pno.): The right hand plays eighth-note chords in the treble clef staff. The left hand plays eighth-note chords in the bass clef staff. Dynamics: ***ff***.

Performance Note: The piano part ends with a dynamic ***p***.

1 $\text{J} = 72$

cl.

vn. *cantabile, rubato*

vc.

pno.

6

cl.

vln. pp mf f pp mf

vc.

pno.

PERUSUAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

12

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

18

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

The score consists of two systems of music. The first system (measures 12-17) has the violin playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *mp*, while the other instruments remain silent. The second system (measures 18-23) has the violin and cello playing sustained notes with dynamics *pp*, *mp*, and *mf*, while the clarinet and piano provide harmonic support. Measure 18 starts with a dynamic *ppp* for the bassoon in the piano part.

24

cl.

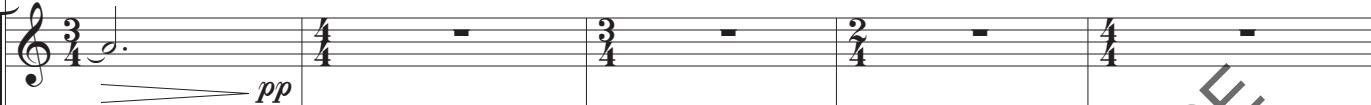
vln.

vc.

pno.

36

cl. 

vln. 

vc. 

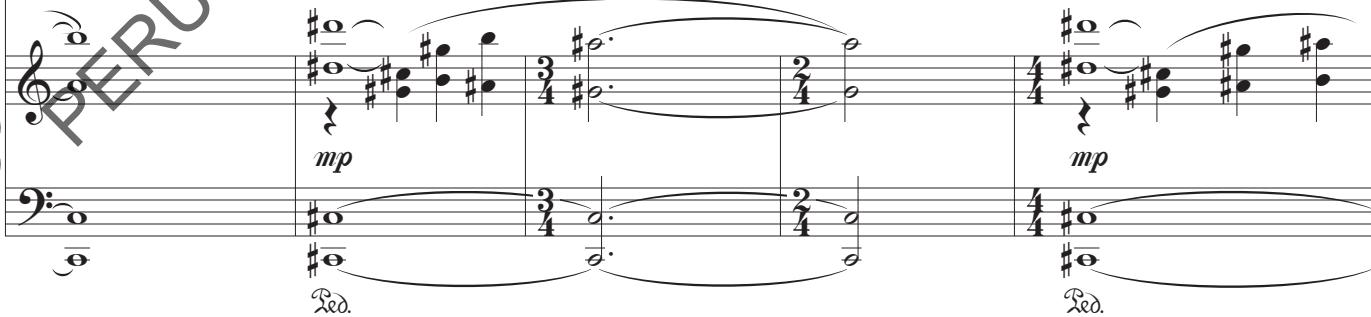
pno. 

41

cl. 

vln. 

vc. 

pno. 

PERUSAVAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

46

cl. vln. vc.

pno.

51

cl. vln. vc.

pno.

PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

The musical score consists of two systems of music. The top system (measures 46) includes parts for Clarinet (cl.), Violin (vln.), Cello (vc.), and Piano (pno.). The bottom system (measure 51) includes parts for Clarinet (cl.), Violin (vln.), Cello (vc.), and Piano (pno.). Measure 46 starts with a dynamic of *mp* for the clarinet, followed by a dynamic of *pp* indicated by a double barline. The violin and cello play sustained notes. The piano part features eighth-note chords. Measure 51 begins with a dynamic of *mf*, followed by *f*. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. Both systems feature time signature changes between 3/4 and 2/4.

56

cl. vln. vc. pno.

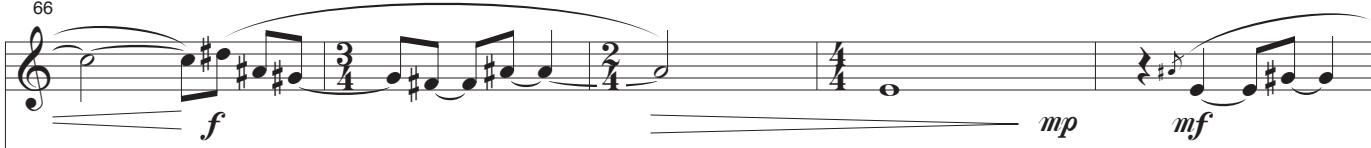
61

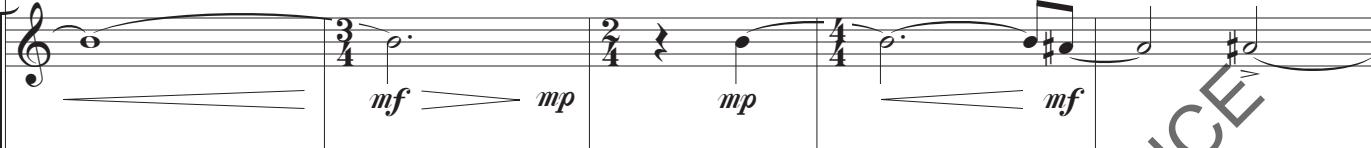
cl. vln. vc. pno.

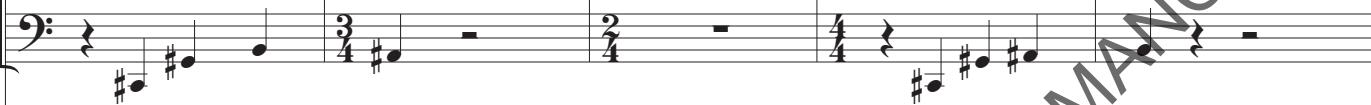
Flowing, jazzy

PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

66

cl. 

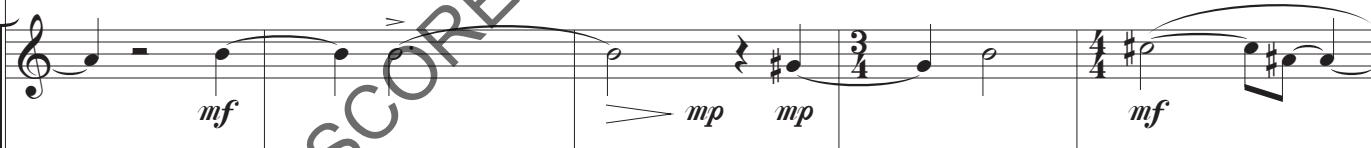
vln. 

vc. 

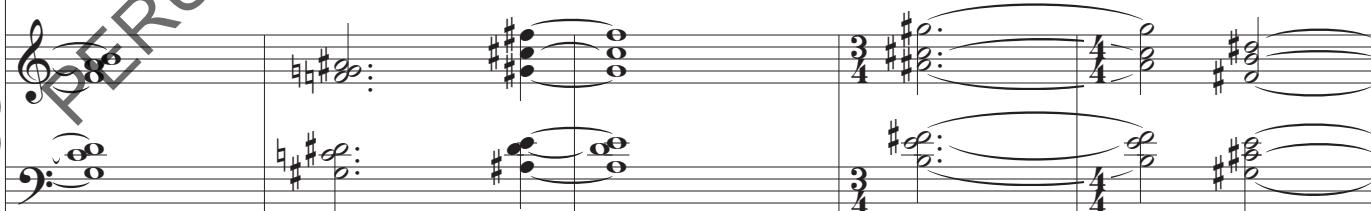
pno. 

71

cl. 

vln. 

vc. 

pno. 

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

76

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

81

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

PERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Detailed description: The musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is for the Clarinet (cl.), showing a melodic line with grace notes and dynamics (mp, mf, mp). The second staff is for the Violin (vln.), featuring eighth-note patterns. The third staff is for the Cello (vc.), with quarter-note patterns. The bottom two staves are for the Piano (pno.), with bass clef and various harmonic changes. Measure 76 starts with a melodic line in the clarinet, followed by the violin and cello. The piano provides harmonic support with sustained notes. Measure 81 begins with a dynamic 'f' in the clarinet, followed by the violin and cello. The piano continues to provide harmonic support. The score is annotated with a large, diagonal watermark reading "PERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE".

85

cl. vln. vc.

pno.

90

cl. vln. vc.

pno.

PERUSAL SCORE / NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

95

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

TOP PERFORMANCE

1 $\text{J} = 110 \text{ ca.}$

Clarinet 

Violin 

Cello   

Piano  

silently depress notes, set and hold sostenuto pedal →

6

cl.    

vln.  

vc.   

pno.  

12

cl. vln. vc. pno.

17

cl. vln. vc. pno.

silently depress notes,
set and hold sostenuto pedal →

22

cl. vln. vc. pno.

— — — — | — γ. — — — — | — — — — | 3 4 — — — — |
pp —————— p sul pont. ord.
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 3 4 — — — — |
p pizz. l.v. pizz. mf
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 3 4 — — — — |
p mf mf ff mf mf

— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 3 4 — — — — |
mf f sfz p

27

cl. vln. vc. pno.

— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |
f > f mf — — — — |
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |
f f p — — — — |
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |
f arco mf — — — — |
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |
— — — — | — — — — | — — — — | 4 5 — — — — |

32

cl.

vln. pizz. *f*

vc. *mf* pizz. *f ff* arco *f sfz*

pno. *mp* presto possible

remove sosteuto pedal

37

cl. *p* *mf* *mp* *pp*

vln. arco *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* pizz. *f*

vc. *sfz* *f* *f*

pno. *pp f* *3* *3* *3* *8* *3* *8*

depress notes silently, set and hold sostenuto pedal →

42

cl. *ff* *mf* *f*

vln. *mf* *sul pont.* *p*

vc. *mf* *ff* *mf* *sfz*

pno. *mp* *ff* *mf*

46

cl. *pp*

vln. *ord.* *pp* *mp*

vc. *pp* *mp* *f*

pno. *mf*

51

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

56

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

remove sostenuto pedal

60

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

63

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

66

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

69

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

PERUSAL SCORE NOTATOR PERFORMANCE

73

cl.

vln.

vc.

pno.

mf

pizz.

sffz

mf

pizz.

mf

f

mf

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE