

| Your Ghost Is a
Memory |

Gunter Gaupp

2022

WRITTEN

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Memphis, TN

for

Solo Viola

approx. 7 minutes in duration


Program Notes

Your Ghost is a Memory explores feelings of fresh grief and the mix of joy and emptiness that comes with remembering a lost loved one. As memory slowly cuts through the static of the piece, there is an anxious longing to hold that memory tightly and protect it from fading.

Performance Notes

The piece begins with col legno white noise sustained for an indeterminate amount of time. While the player is free to decide the length of this section, they are encouraged to spend a non-insignificant amount of time dwelling in this static space.

♩ = ~100
freely, mindless, no rush
white noise, col legno bowing on muted strings



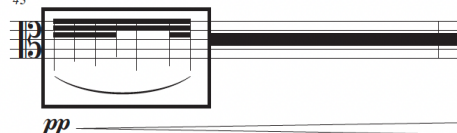
p

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. A single note is written on the C line (middle C). Above the note is a fermata. Below the staff, there are two 'x' marks on the C and G lines, indicating muted strings. A dynamic marking of *p* is at the bottom. A tempo marking of ♩ = ~100 is at the top left. Performance instructions are written above the staff.

The piece makes frequent use of a “wiggling” harmonic gesture on the C string underneath more resonant melodic gestures. Here, the player is asked to lightly touch fingers on the C string in a rapid, random order. The resulting sound should be a thin wiggly between random natural harmonics and is notated as follows

move fingers rapidly in random order anywhere on the fingerboard sul C
remain in a natural, comfortable hand position using harmonic pressure
ord. _____

43



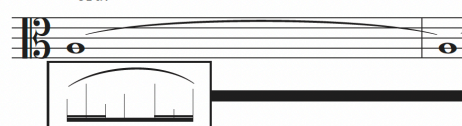
pp

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. A box highlights a section of the staff from measure 43 to 44. Inside the box, there are several vertical lines of varying heights, representing the wiggling harmonic gesture. Below the staff, there is a dynamic marking of *pp*. Performance instructions are written above the staff.

The player should maintain a comfortable hand position and not look to catch any specific harmonic fingerings.

As the piece progresses, a G string melody is built on top of continuous C string wiggles. Here, the player should look to play the written melody with one finger while using the free fingers to create the wiggling effect. In this instance, the harmonic wiggles are represented beneath the staff while the melodic gesture is presented normally.

6 while still playing the notated pitch, continually wiggle fingers
rapidly in random order sul C as before
56 ord. _____



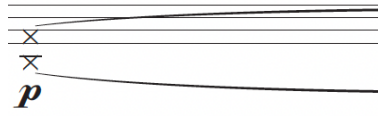
The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. A note is written on the G line. Below the staff, there is a box containing vertical lines of varying heights, representing the wiggling harmonic gesture. Performance instructions are written above the staff.

Additionally, the piece frequently asks the player to move the position of their bow over the course of a phrase. In these instances, an arrow is used to demonstrate the approximate speed of movement between two bow positions

ord. —————▶ m.s.p

m.s.p - molto sul ponticello- very close to the bridge/nearly on top of the bridge

X notepads are used to notate muted strings. Here, the player should lightly rest fingers anywhere on the notated strings to keep them from vibrating. The resulting sound should be nearly pitchless, thin, and wispy.



Your Ghost Is a Memory

Gunter Gaupp

♩ = ~25

freely, mindless, no rush

col legno

continue for some time

Viola

after a while...

col legno

ord.
m.s.p

not quite so long this time

3

♩ = ~100

A whenever you're ready

sul pont.

9

not necessarily in time, very slow bow, m.s.p, noisy

III
IV

back in loose time
ord.

12

16

6

20

ord. sul pont.

f

24

m.s.p.

f

faster, noiser than before

III
IV

27

ord. m.s.p.

f

30

ord.

mp

3

33

wild, unwieldy, noisy

ord.

f *mp*

37

col legno

sul pont.

p *f*

move fingers rapidly in random order anywhere on the fingerboard sul C
remain in a natural, comfortable hand position using harmonic pressure

ord. → m.s.p. → ord.

42

pp *mp*

45 *accel.* ord. wild, unwieldy, noisy

mp *f*

49 ♩ = ~112

ff *mp*

53

pp

B while still playing the notated pitch, continually wiggle fingers rapidly in random order sul C as before

ord. → molto sul pont.

pp molto sul pont.

59 improvising using wiggly harmonics

0

8

dreamy, folksy, expressive

63 *accelerando gradually and consistently*

transition to wiggles

mp

introduce wiggles on C while maintaining the written pitch

III
IV

67

mp

71

wiggles return

♩ = ~124
continue accel.
slowly becoming louder and more energized

75

wiggles return
improvising with bow pressure and position for added noise

79

maintain wiggles sul C as consistently as possible in any hand position while playing the written melody, ok to play open C beneath the melody without wiggles as needed/desired

83

♩ = ~140

87

91

harmonic finger pressure, m.s.p

95

continue wiggles if possible, but feel free to switch to open C string gestures underneath the melody by this point

99

improvise melodic gesture using similar pitch material for as long as desired, maintain a resonant open C as much as possible, become continually louder, wilder, and more noisy until the melody is overpowered by noise

fast, noisy noodling on highest harmonics sul C essentially blasting noise for 6 measures

fff

106

m.s.p
freely rebowing as desired

10

$\text{♩} = \sim 200$

C

driven, re-focused, energized, bluegrassy

sul pont.

10 *f*

112

114

116

119

121

124

127

Musical staff 127: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4 and 4/4 time signatures, eighth notes.

129

Musical staff 129: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4 and 5/4 time signatures, eighth notes with accents.

131

Musical staff 131: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4 and 4/4 time signatures, eighth notes.

133

Musical staff 133: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4, 5/4, and 4/4 time signatures, eighth notes.

135

Musical staff 135: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4 and 5/4 time signatures, eighth notes.

137

Musical staff 137: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4 and 4/4 time signatures, eighth notes.

139

Musical staff 139: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4, 5/4, and 4/4 time signatures, eighth notes.

141

Musical staff 141: Treble and bass clefs, 5/4 and 5/4 time signatures, eighth notes and a final chord.

12

145

147

149

151

154

ff

157

slow way down, grinding to a stop

160

♩ = ~100

D freely, mindless, no rush
white noise, col legno bowing on muted strings

continue for a little while

p

166 ord.
slow bow, wispy sound

col legno

p

170 ord.

p

174 col legno

ord.

p *pp* *mp* *p*