

*Pastorale
Tragique*

by Sam C Henderson

Program Notes:

Traditionally, the pastorale calls to a setting of calm pasture and tranquil spring – a place full of life and fruitfulness, yet also still and quiet, as if it were captured in a single picture. "Pastorale Tragique" undermines these established standards by both trading serene contentedness for solemn bereavement and instilling a sense of drama and movement to a once static thought. In other words, this piece serves as an antithesis to the pastorale: a representation of the lifeless ruin that results from an apocalyptic wildfire.

From the first brooding tones of the piano, there is a sense of the ominous and forlorn character extracted from the peaceful nature of a traditional pastorale. Dissonant interaction between each instrument hints at the unrest that pervades the piece; yet throughout, there are cadences that hark back to a happier time – moments that the piece wants to hold on to but must leave behind. The initial themes set by the strings then become increasingly frantic and disjointed until a quiet arrival temporarily subsides the tension. However, a very gradual crescendo begins, wherein each instrument gets more and more aggressively raucous. Soon, the tension comes to a head as the interaction between each instrument becomes more and more chaotic, culminating in a climax that is punctuated with a catastrophic and devastating cluster in the piano. After a sobering moment, the piano reenters with the initial theme, although slightly altered from before. The low cluster still hangs over the piece as the strings cling for dear life to memories that must fade. Once the piano loses touch with the motif and gives way to the destruction, the strings inevitably fall down with it as the world lies in ruin.

Performance Notes:

Each performer must carry a sense of longing for solace and happiness despite understanding the inevitability of the tragedy. The entire piece should be characterized by a give and take, a rubato, that struggles between these two states of mind. No tempo is absolutely strict and thus should not be followed exactly to the beat. Take heed of every fermata and all changes in tempo, as these carry the narrative.

Additionally:

- In m. 32, the sixteenth note in all parts should be elongated so that it is given greater weight than the next chord.
- Starting in m. 82, the strings should gradually and evenly decrease their rate of tremolo until the time interval between each stroke roughly equates to a half note, using the noteless rhythmic figures as an approximation. Then, in m. 87, the note should be sounded senza tremelo.
- In m. 89, the violin should tune the G string down whilst sounding the open note. Before reaching niente, the string should be tuned down at least a minor or major third from the original open note, but the largest interval possible (without harming the instrument) is preferable.
- In m. 90, the piano should continue to sound while the string players return to a resting position. The hands should not come off the piano until there is no sound.

Pastorale Tragique

Sam C Henderson

Solemnly ♩ = 60 *molto rubato*

Violin

Cello

Piano

pp *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

pp

8vb
Led. *

6

A

Violin

Cello

Piano

p *mf sub p* *p*

p

8vb
Led. *

11

pp *p* *mp* *p* *mf sub p*

11

(8vb)

* Ped.

16

B

mp *mf sub pp*

16

(8vb)

*

19 *mf* *pp* *accel.*

19 *f* 14 *ped.* *

22 *mf* *p* *pp* *rit.* *accel.* **C**

22 *pp* *cresc.*

26

mp

This system contains measures 26, 27, and 28. It features a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and the bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in both staves.

26

mp cresc.

This system contains measures 26, 27, and 28. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and the bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mp cresc.* is present in the treble staff.

29

f

This system contains measures 29 and 30. It features a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and the bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. The dynamic marking *f* is present in both staves.

29

f

This system contains measures 29 and 30. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and the bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. The dynamic marking *f* is present in the treble staff.

31 *molto rit.* *ff sub p* //

ff sub p //

31 *cresc.* *ff* *sfz mp* //

3 *3* *3* *3* *(senza ped.)* //

D

Ominously ♩ = 80 (♩=♩) sempre

pizz. *mp*

33 *pp* *simile sub p*

8vb

37

p

mp

37

p

mp

(8^{vb})

40

accel.

mp

mp

40

mp

mp

(8^{vb})

43

arco

arco

mf

mf

(8vb)

E

Faster ♩ = 90

pizz.

p

mp

pizz.

arco sul pont.

sub p

mp

45

sub p

(8vb)

arco sul pont. normale accel.

pizz. arco

f *f* *simile f*

47

47

(8vb)

50

50

F Wildly ♩ = 100

ff sub p ff

ff sub p ff

53 ff sub p ff

G

sub mp pizz. sub mp

56 sub mp

Leo. *

accel.

58

6/4

58

cresc.

6/4

59

f

arco

4/4

59

simile

f

cresc.

4/4

61

Musical notation for measures 61-62, first system. Treble clef with slurs and accents. Bass clef with triplets and slurs.

61

Musical notation for measures 61-62, second system. Grand staff with chords and arpeggios.

63

Musical notation for measures 63-64, first system. Treble clef with slurs and accents. Bass clef with triplets and slurs. Dynamic markings *ff*.

63

Musical notation for measures 63-64, second system. Grand staff with chords and arpeggios. Dynamic markings *sffz* and *8va-1*.

12

Musical score for measures 65-66. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. Measure 65 features a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line with triplets in the bass staff. Measure 66 continues the melodic line and bass line with chords. Vertical lines with 'v' indicate fingerings.

Musical score for measures 65-66. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. Both staves feature a continuous eighth-note accompaniment pattern. Measure 65 starts with a rest in the treble staff. Measure 66 continues the accompaniment.

Half pedal

Musical score for measures 67-68. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. Measure 67 features a *fff* dynamic marking and a fermata in the treble staff. Measure 68 features a *fff* dynamic marking and a fermata in the bass staff. Vertical lines with 'v' indicate fingerings.

8va

Musical score for measures 67-68. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. Both staves feature a melodic line with a *fff* dynamic marking. Measure 67 features a *8va* marking. Measure 68 features a *fff* dynamic marking and a fermata. Vertical lines with 'v' indicate fingerings.

*

68

Musical notation for measures 68-69, top system. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature. Two whole notes are present in both staves.

Hold until sound reaches pianissimo

68

Musical notation for measures 68-69, bottom system. Grand staff with bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Includes dynamic markings 8^{vb} , *sffz*, and 8^{vb} .

H

Reflectively ♩ = 60

Musical notation for measures 68-69, top system. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature. Includes dynamic marking *pp*.

70

Musical notation for measures 70-72, grand staff. Includes dynamic markings *p*, *pp*, *p*, and 8^{va} .

Ped. Hold pedal until end

8^{vb}

rit. -----

Musical score for measures 74-76. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves contain whole notes with a fermata. The treble staff has a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The bass staff has a dynamic marking of *ppp*. A dashed line labeled *rit.* is positioned above the treble staff.

Musical score for measures 74-76, piano part. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 74 is marked with *(8va)*. The piano part features a melodic line in the treble staff and a more active line in the bass staff. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.

Musical score for measures 77-79, piano part. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves contain whole notes with a fermata. The treble staff has a dynamic marking of *pp*. The bass staff has a dynamic marking of *pp*. A box labeled **I** is placed above the treble staff. Text to the right of the staves reads "No meter c. 3''".

Musical score for measures 77-79, piano part. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves contain whole notes with a fermata. The treble staff has dynamic markings of *mp* and *p*. The bass staff has dynamic markings of *mp* and *p*. Text to the right of the staves reads "Increase duration of each successive chord c. 3''".

at the tip
Sul G
c. 4"

Gradually slow rate of tremolo until m. 87
c. 4.5" c. 5"

n *ppp* *p*

at the tip
Sul C
c. 4"

Gradually slow rate of tremolo until m. 87
c. 4.5" c. 5"

n *ppp* *p*

c. 3.5" c. 4" c. 4.5" c. 5"

(8vb)

c. 5.5" c. 6" c. 6.5" *dim.*

c. 5.5" c. 6" c. 6.5" *dim.*

c. 5.5" c. 6" c. 6.5"

(8vb)

Musical score for measures 16 and 17. The score is written for four staves: Treble Clef, Bass Clef, Grand Staff (Bass Clef), and Grand Staff (Bass Clef). The first two staves are marked *pp*. The notes are labeled *c. 7''* and *c. 8''*. The Grand Staff (Bass Clef) has a key signature of two flats and is marked *(8vb)*. The Grand Staff (Bass Clef) has a key signature of one sharp and is marked *(8vb)*. A vertical dashed line separates measure 16 from measure 17.

Gradually tune string down until end

Musical score for measures 18 and 19. The score is written for two staves: Treble Clef and Bass Clef. The notes are marked with *n*. A vertical dashed line separates measure 18 from measure 19.

Hold until sound fully dissipates

Musical score for measures 20 and 21. The score is written for four staves: Grand Staff (Bass Clef) and Grand Staff (Bass Clef). The Grand Staff (Bass Clef) has a key signature of two flats and is marked *(8vb)*. The Grand Staff (Bass Clef) has a key signature of one sharp and is marked *(8vb)*. A vertical dashed line separates measure 20 from measure 21.