

Music Starts When Words Leave Off

Stuff Smith, violin
Dave Soldier, orchestra

version August 23, 2017

Stuff Smith's Unfinished Concerto

version for solo violin, string orchestra, and piano

The musical score is for a piece in 4/4 time, marked with a tempo of quarter note = 136. It begins at measure 136, indicated by a box labeled 'A'. The score is arranged for a solo violin and a string orchestra (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) with piano accompaniment. The solo violin part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The string orchestra and piano parts enter with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano part features a prominent melody in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand, including a triplet. The double bass part also features a triplet. The overall texture is rich and layered, with the solo violin providing a melodic line over the accompaniment.

Stuff Smith home recorded an unfinished Concerto in Los Angeles around 1963 or 1964.

For safe-keeping he sent a poorly recorded tape to his friends Mary Lee and Don Hester of Arlington who sent it to Anthony Barnett in the 1990s. I transcribed the violin part and have written an accompanying part for string orchestra and piano. There is a violin/piano duo version, and I will prepare one for full orchestra.
-Dave Soldier, August, 2-17 New York City

This musical score is for the piece "Music Starts When Words Leave Off" and is the second page of the score. It features a full orchestral arrangement with the following parts: Violin Solo (Vln. S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano. The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The music begins at measure 4, indicated by a '4' above the first staff. The piano part is marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes Vln. S., Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc, and D.B. The second system includes the Piano. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and includes triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in measures 7 and 8 of both systems. The Vln. S. part has a melodic line with some slurs and ties. The Vln I and Vln II parts have more rhythmic patterns. The Vla and Vc parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines. The D.B. part has a simple bass line. The Piano part provides a rich harmonic texture with chords and moving lines in both hands.

The image displays a musical score for a string quartet and piano. The score is organized into two systems. The first system includes staves for Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Double Bass (D.B.). The second system is for the Piano. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 7. The Vln.S. part starts with a half note chord and then moves to a series of chords marked *f*. The Vln I, Vln II, Vla, and Vc parts enter with a half note chord and then play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes marked *mf*. The D.B. part remains silent. The Piano part features a triplet of chords in the right hand and a triplet of chords in the left hand, both marked *mf*. A *8va* marking with a dashed line and a double slash indicates an octave shift for the right hand. A *Leg.* marking is present in the left hand. A *** symbol is located below the piano part in the third measure of the second system.

removed a beat from original

The musical score consists of seven staves. The top six staves are for string instruments: Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Double Bass (D.B.). The bottom staff is for the Piano. The score is in 3/4 time and begins at measure 10. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The string parts feature a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed above the piano staff in the third measure. A rehearsal mark '10' is placed above the first measure of the Vln.S. staff.

This musical score page contains measures 13 through 16 for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (P). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 13 begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* for the Vln.S. and *mp* for the other strings. The Vln.S. part features a melodic line with triplets in measures 14 and 15. The Vln I and Vln II parts play a rhythmic accompaniment, with Vln I and Vln II reaching a *pp* dynamic in measure 14. The Vla, Vc, and D.B. parts provide a steady bass line. The piano part enters in measure 13 with a *mp* dynamic, playing a rhythmic accompaniment in the right hand and a more complex accompaniment in the left hand. The score concludes in measure 16 with a final chord and a fermata over the piano part.

This musical score is for a string quartet and piano. It consists of seven staves: Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano. The score is divided into three measures, with measure numbers 17, 18, and 19 indicated at the beginning of each measure. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first measure (17) features a solo violin part with triplet eighth notes and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. The second measure (18) features a half note in the solo violin and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. The third measure (19) features a triplet eighth note in the solo violin and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics are marked as *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte) across the measures. The piano part includes a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment of chords.

20

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

20

f

ff

pp

f

ff

pp

f

ff

pp

f

ff

pp

mf

rit.

sva-

sva-

Music Starts When Words Leave Off

B ♩=80

Vln.S. *mp*

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

25 *mp*

28 *rubato*

Vln.S. *f* *mf*

C ♩=108

30 *accel.*

Vln.S.

Vln I *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Vln II *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Vla *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Vc *pizz.* *arco* *p*

D.B. *pizz.* *arco* *p*

mf *p*

35 *rit.* **D** $\text{♩} = 80$ *dolce*

Vln.S. *mf* *f* *cantabile mp*

Vln I *mf* *f* *cantabile pp*

Vln II *p* *mf* *f* *pp*

Vla *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc *mf* *pp*

D.B.

40

Vln.S. *div: one as written, partner artificial harmonic (2 octaves higher)*

Vln I *p* *div: one as written, partner artificial harmonic (2 octaves higher)*

Vln II *p* *div: one as written, partner artificial harmonic (2 octaves higher)*

Vla *p* *div: one as written, partner artificial harmonic (2 octaves higher)*

Vc *p* *div: one as written, partner artificial harmonic (2 octaves higher)*

D.B.

40 *free pedal & attacks: shimmering chords* *pp*

mp *pp*

E *a tempo*

Vln.S. *mf*

Vln I *solo* *mf dolce*

Vln II *ord.* *pp*

Vla *ord.* *pp*

Vc *ord.* *pp*

D.B. *pp*

Piano *p* 51

54

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

54

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 12, is titled "Music Starts When Words Leave Off". It features a score for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Double Bass (D.B.). The piano part is shown at the bottom. The score is in 3/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The page number 54 is written above the first measure of the Vln.S. staff. The Vln.S. part consists of a melodic line with some grace notes. Vln I plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern with slurs. Vln II, Vla, Vc, and D.B. play sustained notes. The piano part is mostly silent, with a single chord in the second measure.

57

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

57

Unis.

pp

solo

mf

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet and piano. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains staves for Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc). The second system contains the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system starts at measure 57. Vln I has a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. Vln II has a whole note. Vla has a whole note. Vc has a whole note. The piano part has a whole note chord. The second system starts at measure 58. Vln.S. has a whole note. Vln I has a whole note. Vln II has a whole note. Vla has a whole note. Vc has a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The piano part has a whole note chord. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include 'Unis.' (unison) and 'solo'.

59

Vln.S. *espress.*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla *solo* *mf* *pp* *Unis.*

Vc *Unis.*

D.B. *pp*

59

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet and piano. The page is numbered 14 and titled "Music Starts When Words Leave Off". The score begins at measure 59. The instruments are Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The Vln.S. part features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a melodic line with an *espress.* marking. The Vln I and Vln II parts play sustained notes. The Vla part has a *solo* section with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a *pp* section and a *Unis.* section. The Vc part has a *Unis.* section. The D.B. part has a *pp* dynamic. The piano part is mostly silent, with some chords in the final measure of the system.

63 F

Vln.S. *mf* *p*

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc *p* *mf*

D.B.

63

p

mf

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 15, is titled "Music Starts When Words Leave Off". It features a score for six string instruments and piano. The score begins at measure 63, marked with a box containing the letter 'F'. The instruments are Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Double Bass (D.B.). The Vln.S. part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and then softens to piano (*p*). The Vln I and Vln II parts enter in measure 4 with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Vla part enters in measure 3 with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Vc part enters in measure 3 with a piano (*p*) dynamic and then moves to mezzo-forte (*mf*) in measure 5. The D.B. part enters in measure 5 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment is shown in a grand staff below the string parts, starting at measure 63 with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The Vln.S. part has a melodic line with some grace notes and a fermata. The Vln I and Vln II parts play a similar melodic line. The Vla part plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The Vc part plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The D.B. part plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and arpeggios.

69 G pizz.

Vln.S. *f* *ff*

Vln I *f* *mf*

Vln II *f* *mf*

Vla *f* *mf*

Vc *f* pizz. 3

D.B. *f* pizz. 3

Piano *f* *mf*

75 *accel.* ♩=108

Vln.S.

Vc 3

D.B. 3

80

arco

mf

pizz. col legno

f pizz. col legno

f pizz. col legno

Vln. S.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

83

Vln. S.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

Music Starts When Words Leave Off

86

Vln.S. *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *ff* *swing* $\text{♩} = 180$

Vc

D.B. *pizz.* *mf*

86

ff

ff

90

Vln.S.

D.B.

90

8va

90



105 *accel.* *rit.*

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

105

Music Starts When Words Leave Off

109 $\text{♩} = 80$ *rubato* *gliss^{na} descending in two bows per note*

Vln.S. Vln I Vln II Vla Vc D.B.

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *mp*

109 *mp*

109 *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 109 through 114. It features six staves for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass) and a grand staff for woodwinds. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as *rubato*. The string parts have dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The woodwind part has a dynamic marking of *mp*. A specific performance instruction for the Violin I part is noted as *gliss^{na} descending in two bows per note*, with a dashed line indicating a glissando on a note.

115 *fast* *cadaneza free tempo*

Vln.S. *f*

Detailed description: This block shows the Violin I part for measures 115 through 118. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as *fast*. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte). The phrase *cadaneza free tempo* is written above the staff, indicating a change in tempo. The music consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes.

117 K $\text{♩} = 180$ *accel.*

Vln.S. *f* *mp*

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf*

Vla *mf*

Vc *mf*

D.B. *mf*

117 *mf* *mp*

121 $\text{♩} = 210$ L *

Vln.S. *f*

Vc *f* pizz.

121 *f*

Vln.S.

Vc

125

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vc

130

135

Vln. S.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla

Vc

tutti

f

140

Vln. S.

Vla

Vc

D.B.

mf

mf

$\text{♩} = 126$

143

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

mf

mf

mf

mf

143

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet and piano. The page is numbered 26 and titled "Music Starts When Words Leave Off". The score begins at measure 143. The instruments are Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Double Bass (D.B.). The piano part is shown at the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The Vln.S. part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, and a half note G4. The Vln I, Vln II, and Vla parts have a whole rest for the first two measures, then enter in the third measure with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The Vc part starts with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note C3. The D.B. part starts with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note C3. The piano part starts with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present in the third measure of the Vln I, Vln II, Vla, and Vc parts.

146 *cadaneza free tempo* M ♩=160

Vln.S. *f* *mp* *mf*

Vln I *f* *p* *pp* *p*

Vln II *f* *p* *pp* *p*

Vla *f* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc *f* *p* *pp* *p*

D.B. *f* *p* *pp* *p*

Piano *mp*

151

Vln.S. *f*

Vln I *f*

Vln II *f*

Vla *f*

Vc *f*

D.B. *f*

Piano *mf*

165 *rubato* O ♩=136 *swing*

Vln.S. *f*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

165

f *mf*

169

Vln.S.

169

Vln.S.

Violin Solo (Vln.S.) and Piano accompaniment, measures 173-177. The Vln.S. part features a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and rhythmic patterns in both hands.

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

Violin Solo (Vln.S.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano accompaniment, measures 177-181. The Vln.S. part begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes slurs and triplets. The Vln I and Vln II parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and triplets. The Vla part plays a similar rhythmic pattern. The Vc and D.B. parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features chords and rhythmic patterns in both hands.

182

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

182

straight feel like beg

P

Musical score for Vln.S., Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc, D.B., and Piano. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked with a quarter note equal to 80 (♩=80) and later with a quarter note equal to 136 (♩=136). The dynamic marking is *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Vln.S. part includes a *Div.* (divisi) instruction. The Piano part begins at measure 186. The score is divided into two systems, with the first system covering measures 136-185 and the second system covering measures 186-235.

190

Vln.S.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

D.B.

rit.

190

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. It begins at measure 190. The Violin Solo part features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a trill in the second measure. The Violin I and II parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Viola and Violoncello parts provide a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The Double Bass part follows a similar rhythmic pattern. The Piano part is divided into two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the Violin Solo part in the final measure of the system.

