

# Serpentine Paths

for violin and violoncello

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*Commissioned by and dedicated to  
Rachel Mercer and Akemi Mercer-Niewöhner*

## ***Serpentine Paths*, for violin and violoncello**

*Serpentine paths* is dedicated to Rachel Mercer and Akemi Mercer-Niewoehner, with gratitude and enthusiasm.

### **Short program note**

In a broad sense, *Serpentine paths* is about an almost irresolvable conflict, and a struggle to find a way through it to harmony.

Unexpected and undulating trajectories are eventually followed to resolution, but rather than being built on the conflict itself, the piece focuses on the journey, and the great energy required to undertake such a journey.

### **Longer program note**

Like all western art music, perhaps, *Serpentine paths* concerns itself with conflict and resolution. Rather than being goal-oriented, however, the piece focuses on the journey itself, the great energy required to undertake such a journey, and some of the surprises one might encounter while travelling.

*Serpentine paths* begins with brittle, prickly music, the pointy sounds of two musical personae at odds with one another and the world. They converse, argue, battle, snark, and even joke occasionally, following undulating and sometimes unexpected trajectories and struggling to find common ground. The pair slip into brief moments of harmony and relaxed comfort, but can't stay there too long before chasing off on their journey yet again.

for Rachel Mercer and Akei Mercer-Niewoehner,  
with gratitude and enthusiasm

# Serpentine paths

Jocelyn Morlock

$\text{♩} = 100$

Violin

*pp* ————— *mp* ————— *f* ————— *ff*

Violoncello

arco

*pp* ————— *mp* ————— *f* ————— *ff*

*molto rit.* ————— *molto sul pont.* ca. 3"

4

ord. ————— *ppp* ————— *f*

ord. ————— *(ppp)* ————— *f*

$\text{♩} = 60$

7

A

ord. *b*

*p* ————— *f* ————— *f* ————— *f*

(poco sul tasto)

*pp* ————— *mf* ————— *pp* ————— *mf* ————— *pp* ————— *mf* ————— *pp* ————— *mf* ————— *pp* ————— *mf* ————— *pp* ————— *mf*

13

*mp* ————— *poco f* ————— *mp*

*pp* ————— *mp* ————— *poco f* ————— *pp*

15

*f* ————— *mp* ————— *mf* ————— *mp* ————— *mf* ————— *pp* ————— *p*

ord. *p* ————— *mf* ————— *mp* ————— *mf* ————— *mp* ————— *p* (unmeasured)

**B**

18 *subito*  $\text{♩} = 120$

*p* *poco f* *p* *mf*

*mf* *ppp* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *poco f* *p*

26

*p* *mf* *p*

31

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

34

*poco f* *p*

*poco f* *p*

37

*f*

*f*

41 **C**

*sfz p*

*sfz p*

*tr*

44

*f*

*mp*

*f mp*

*tr*

48 **D**

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff* *mf*

*(light, detached)*

51

*mf*

55

*(light, detached)*

*ff mp p*

*ff mp p*

59

Musical score for measures 59-62. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some grace notes. The bass staff contains a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

63

Musical score for measures 63-66. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff features a melodic line with some rests and grace notes. The bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

67

Musical score for measures 67-70. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with accents and dynamics markings: *poco f* and *mp*. The bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamics markings: *poco f* and *mp*. A *tr* (trill) marking is present in the bass staff at measure 68.

71

Musical score for measures 71-73. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with accents and dynamics marking *f*. A chord symbol **E** is placed above the treble staff at measure 71. The bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamics marking *f*.

74

Musical score for measures 74-77. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with accents and dynamics marking *f*. The bass staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamics marking *f*.

77

Musical notation for measures 77-80. Treble clef contains eighth-note runs and trills. Bass clef contains eighth-note accompaniment.

81

Musical notation for measures 81-83. Treble clef contains eighth-note runs with trills. Bass clef contains eighth-note accompaniment.

84

Musical notation for measures 84-86. Treble clef contains eighth-note runs. Bass clef contains eighth-note accompaniment.

87

Musical notation for measures 87-91. Treble clef contains eighth-note runs and a triplet. Bass clef contains eighth-note accompaniment.

92

Musical notation for measures 92-95. Treble clef contains eighth-note runs with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*. Bass clef contains eighth-note accompaniment.

96

mf 5 6 p pp 5 p 5

pp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 96 to 100. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings: *mf* (measures 96-97), *p* (measure 98), *pp* (measure 99), and *p* (measure 100). Fingerings 5 and 6 are indicated for measures 96-97. The bass clef staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with a *pp* dynamic marking.

101

mf <sup>3</sup> p p <sup>3</sup> mf mp p

mp p mf mp p

Detailed description: This system covers measures 101 to 105. The treble clef staff has a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings: *mf* (measure 101), *p* (measure 102), *mf* (measure 103), *mp* (measure 104), and *p* (measure 105). Triplet markings (<sup>3</sup>) are present in measures 101 and 102. The bass clef staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings: *mp* (measure 101), *p* (measure 102), *mf* (measure 103), *mp* (measure 104), and *p* (measure 105).

106

pp

pp

G

tr

tr

Detailed description: This system covers measures 106 to 110. The treble clef staff starts with a *pp* dynamic marking. A box labeled 'G' is placed above the staff in measure 107. Trills (tr) are marked in measures 107 and 109. The bass clef staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with a *pp* dynamic marking and trills (tr) in measures 107 and 109.

111

mp ff

mp ff

H

Detailed description: This system covers measures 111 to 116. The treble clef staff has a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings: *mp* (measures 111-115) and *ff* (measure 116). A box labeled 'H' is placed above the staff in measure 115. The bass clef staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings: *mp* (measures 111-115) and *ff* (measure 116). Trills (tr) are marked in measures 111, 112, 113, 114, and 115.

117

tr tr

Detailed description: This system covers measures 117 to 121. The treble clef staff has a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings: *tr* (measures 117-118) and *tr* (measures 119-120). The bass clef staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with trills (tr) in measures 119 and 120.

122

trill trill

*p* *mp* *mf*

trill trill pizz. arco

*p* *mf*

129 subito ♩ = 100

130 subito ♩ = 80

*pp* *mf* *p* *f* *f* *f* *p*

arco *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *f* *f* *p* *mp*

135

*f* *mp*

*f* *f* *p* *p* *mp* *p* *p* *3* *3*

(arco, detached)

arco pizz. arco arco

141 molto sul pont.

*f* *mf* *ff*

*f* *mf* *ff* *3* *5* *5* *5*

146

*mp* *sfz* *f*

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

snap pizz. arco pizz. arco

snap pizz. arco snap pizz. arco snap pizz.

152

mp f mp mf mp f

arco snap pizz. arco snap pizz. arco snap pizz.

156

mp mp mf p

arco snap pizz. pizz. snap pizz. pizz. arco

L

161

pp

pizz. arco

6

164

pp mp pp mp

pp poco f snap pizz. poco f

M

167

mp f mp (light, detached)

arco pizz. arco

173 *poco rit.*

*f* *f* *p* *f*

**N** ♩ = ca. 66

178 (*legato*)

*pp* (*legato*) *pp* *mp* *pp*

184

*p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

**O** ♩ = 60

189

*mp* *poco f* *poco f*

192

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

196

198

**P**

200

202

rit. . . . .

**Q** A tempo ♩ = 60

206