

Omri Kochavi

shumarim | שוּמְרִים

for prepared string quartet

(2023)

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first performance: Rothko Collective, April 20th 2023 @ The Tent

Duration: c. 4'

Ensemble

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

All instruments prepared as described below.

Performance Notes

Preparation

Each instrument is prepared by tightly placing a little bit of **blu-tack** around the string at the very end of the fingerboard, as in the following photos (of my battered £50 violin):



Place the blu-tack on the following strings:

- Violin I: D string
- Violin II: E string
- Viola: G string
- Violoncello: C string

Use the plucking video below can be used as a guide to test the pressure and position of the blu-tack. If you're getting a similar(ish) sound – that's the right spot!

Notation

The prepared string is always notated as a cross head on the pitch of the relevant string.

General

All glissandi start on the beginning of the note.

Playing technique

For both plucking or bowing the prepared string, always play between the blu-tack and the bridge.

Plucking

When plucking the string, a “muted bell” sound should be produced, as in the following video:

<https://youtu.be/aOspLv4muKo>

Bowing

When bowing the string, always use a slow and light bow, to produce a combination of a grainy low note with high harmonics.

Omri Kochavi, April 2023

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steady, comfortable (♩ = c. 152)

arco
hold for the whole piece

Violin I
pppp almost as soft as possible

Violin II
pizz. (without bow)
light touch, like left-hand pizz. (except accented notes)
pp
fast vib.
< *mp pp sub.*

Viola
pizz. (without bow)
with a sense of melody / line
fast vib.
IV IV IV sim.
always very short
(lift finger off the string immediately)
< *mp p*
all notes on the C string unless indicated

Violoncello
con sord.
non-vib.
distant
pppp *pp* *pppp*

12

Vln. I

Vln. II
fast vib.
< *mp pp sub.* fast vib.
< *mf pp sub.*

Vla.
0 0 IV
< *mp (>) p* 0 0 IV
< *mf p*

Vc.
pppp *pp*

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f pp sub.

f p mp(>) p

pppp *pppp*

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

fast vib. *fast vib.*

f mp

f p mp(>) mp

pp *pppp*

42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

fast vib.

f *pp sub.*

mp *pp sub.*

f (*p*)

mp

pppp

48

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp *pp sub.*

p

mp (*p*)

pp

54

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f *pp* *sub.*

f *p*

pp

63

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

< *mp* *pp* *sub.*

f *pp* *sub.*

< *mp* *p*

f *p*

pppp *mp* *pp*

72

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf pp sub.

mf

pppp

80

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp pp sub.

mp

pppp *mf* *pppp*

91

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp pp sub.

mp pp sub.

mp mp

pppp

96

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f pp sub.

f pp sub.

p f p p

pp

101

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp pp sub.

mp p

pppp

pizz.

p

112

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

< mp pp sub.

< mp p

arco

pizz. arco

pizz.

arco

ppp p ppp p pp < mp > pp p pppp

123

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp pp sub.

mp pp sub.

mp p

mp p

harm. trill + trem. with bow

mf

pppp

131

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f pp sub.

f

pizz.

arco

p

ppp

139

Vln. I

Vln. II *mp pp sub.*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *p ppp p arco*

149

Vln. I

Vln. II *mf pp sub.*

Vla. *mf (mf) p*

Vc. *pppp p arco*

158

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f *pp sub.*

f *p* *pp sempre*

pick up bow

arco

pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

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

167

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

(pppp)

(pp)

arco pizz.

ppp *p* *ppp* *p*