

John Sturt

Neo-Gaelic Dances


For String Quartet

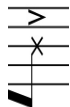
Programme Notes:

This piece was written for the Smith Quartet in early 2019 in response to a call for scores sent to the Mastersstudents of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. After several abortive attempts to create a piece, I finally landed on an idea inspired by the Gaelic Fiddle music of the Shetland Islands, having been encouraged to listen to the music of that region by Soosan Lolavar.

The piece is in a loose ternary form with a coda, and features a recurring rhythmic motif that I have engineered in various ways - modulating rhythmically and with altered harmonies.

Extra Notation Information:

 = Highest possible note

 = Carry out instruction above notehead. E.g. "Shout" or "Clap"

for the Smith Quartet
Neo-Gaelic Dances

John Sturt

Fast
♩ = 120

Violin I
ff staccato
Shout
HEY!
Shout

Violin II
ff staccato
HEY!
Shout
HEY!
Shout

Viola
ff staccato
HEY!
Shout
HEY!
Shout

Violoncello
ff staccato
HEY!
HEY!

3

Vln. I
gliss. *gliss.*
Shout
HEY!

Vln. II
gliss. *gliss.*
Shout
HEY!

Vla.
gliss. *gliss.*
Shout
HEY!

Vc.
gliss. *gliss.*
Shout
HEY!

5

Vln. I
par normale

Vln. II
par normale

Vla.
par normale

Vc.
par normale

A

10

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

14

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

18

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18 and 19. Vln. I plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. Vln. II plays a dotted quarter-note pattern. Vla. and Vc. play a similar dotted quarter-note pattern. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 4/4.

20

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20 and 21. Vln. I plays a dotted quarter-note pattern. Vln. II plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. Vla. and Vc. play a dotted quarter-note pattern. The key signature has one flat and the time signature is 4/4.

22 **B**

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

Clap Clap
Shout Shout
HEY! HEY!
HEY! HEY!
HEY! Stomp HEY! Stomp
mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 22, 23, and 24. Measure 22 is in 4/4 time. Measure 23 is in 4/4 time. Measure 24 is in 3/4 time. Vln. I has claps in measures 22 and 23. Vln. II has shouts in measures 22 and 23. Vla. has shouts in measures 22 and 23. Vc. has stomps in measures 22 and 23. Dynamics include mp, f, and mf. The key signature has one flat.

25

Vln. I *mf* *f*

Vln. II *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 28. The first violin part (Vln. I) starts with a half note G4 (mf), followed by a quarter note F4, and then a half note E4 (f). The second violin (Vln. II) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in pairs. The viola (Vla.) also plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in pairs. The cello (Vc.) has a half note G3 (f) in measure 25, followed by a half note F3 in measure 26, and then a half note E3 in measure 27. In measure 28, the cello has a half note D3 (mf) with a fermata.

29

Vln. I *mf* *f* gliss.

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 31. The first violin part (Vln. I) starts with a half note G4 (mf), followed by a quarter note F4, and then a half note E4 (f). In measure 30, there is a glissando (gliss.) over a half note D4. The second violin (Vln. II) continues with its rhythmic pattern. The viola (Vla.) also continues with its rhythmic pattern. The cello (Vc.) has a half note G3 (f) in measure 29, followed by a half note F3 in measure 30, and then a half note E3 in measure 31.

C

32

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32 through 35. A section marker 'C' is placed above measure 32. The first violin part (Vln. I) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in pairs (mp). The second violin (Vln. II) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in pairs (mf). The viola (Vla.) has a half note G3 (mp) in measure 32, followed by a half note F3 in measure 33, and then a half note E3 in measure 34. The cello (Vc.) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in pairs (mp).

36 **D**

Violin I: *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*. Includes a sixteenth-note run with a *gliss.* and a *Sul G° & D°* instruction.

Violin II: *f*. Consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

Viola: *f*. Includes a *5* fingering.

Violoncello: *f*. Consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

39

Violin I: Melodic line with accents.

Violin II: *f*. Consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

Viola: *f*. Consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

Violoncello: *f*. Consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

43

Violin I: *ff*. Includes a *gliss.* at the end.

Violin II: *ff*. Includes a *gliss.* at the end.

Viola: *ff*. Consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

Violoncello: *ff*. Includes a *gliss.* at the end.

E

Suddenly Faster

$\text{♩} = 144$

48

Vln. I *mf subito* *sempre staccato*

Vln. II *mf subito*

Vla. *mf subito* *pizz.* *sempre staccato*

Vc. *mf*

50

par normale **molto rit.** *f*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *sempre staccato* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

F

Strident

$\text{♩} = 80$

52

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff par normale*

Vla. *ff par normale* *arco*

Vc. *ff*

56

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

59

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

fp

gliss.

G

A Tempo Primo

♩ = 120

63

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff staccato

HEY!

Shout

Shout

Shout Stomp

par normale

67

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

71 **H**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

73

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

75

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

77

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 77 and 78. The Violin I and II parts play a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. The Viola part plays chords with a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking. The Violoncello part plays a bass line with rests. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4.

79

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf subito

sempre staccato

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 79 and 80. Measures 79-80 are marked with a first ending bracket. The Violin I and II parts play a sixteenth-note pattern, with 'mf subito' and 'sempre staccato' markings. The Viola part plays a sixteenth-note pattern, also with 'mf subito' and 'sempre staccato' markings. The Violoncello part plays a bass line with 'mf' marking. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4.

81

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

par normale

sempre staccato

arco

Detailed description: This system contains measures 81 and 82. The Violin I part plays chords, marked 'par normale'. The Violin II part plays a sixteenth-note pattern, marked 'sempre staccato'. The Viola part plays a sixteenth-note pattern. The Violoncello part plays a bass line, marked 'arco'. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4.

83

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Measures 83-85: Violin I and II play melodic lines with slurs and accents. Viola and Violoncello play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature changes from one flat to two flats, and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 6/8.

86

Vln. I *gliss.*

Vln. II *Shout*

Vla. *Shout*

Vc. *Sul C° & G°*

Measures 86-88: Violin I has glissando markings. Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello have 'Shout' markings. The key signature changes to three flats, and the time signature changes to 3/4. The Viola and Violoncello parts include the word 'HEY!'.

89

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Measures 89-91: All instruments play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature changes to two flats, and the time signature changes to 5/4.

J

Suddenly Faster

92 ♩=144

Vln. I
f

Vln. II
f

Vla.
f

Vc.
f

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

12

99

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

K

Triumphant

$\text{♩} = 64$

103

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

106

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.