

RYAN HOWARD

## EPITAPHIC FORMS

(2010)

FLUTE, OBOE, VIOLIN, CELLO, 2 GUITARS

**Duration:** ca. 15'30"

**Program Note**

*Epitaphic Forms* unfolds as a series of episodes utilizing different subsets of the ensemble, each having something of the character of an inscription, or elegy, based upon a very circumscribed amount of material that is repeated and varied in subtle ways. The episodes cycle and return as transformed versions of themselves, and the gradual rising and subsequent falling of intensity is suggestive of a traditional dramatic arc; the work blossoms into something approaching lyricism at times, yet ultimately is re-drawn near its end into the highly confined sound-world established in the opening minutes.

**Performance Notes**

**Flute:** NV = without vibrato; V = with vibrato

**Oboe, Violin, Cello:** Play without vibrato unless otherwise indicated

**Guitars:** L.V. sempre; wherever possible, play successive pitches on different strings in order to maximize resonance

for the Cygnus Ensemble  
EPITAPHIC FORMS

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♩ = 56-58

*NV sempre*

Fl. *pp*

Gtr. 1 *p*

Gtr. 2 *p*

8

Fl.

Vln. *ppp* sul tasto sempre senza vibr.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

15

Fl.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

22

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

sim.

*ppp*

30

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*pp*

*p*

39

Fl.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

47 V V NV V

Fl.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Detailed description: This system covers measures 47 to 53. The Flute (Fl.) part starts at measure 47 with a dynamic marking of 'V'. It features a melodic line with slurs and rests. The Guitars (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) play a rhythmic accompaniment consisting of eighth-note triplets, with slurs and accents. The dynamics for the guitars are consistent throughout the system.

54 V

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*ppp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 54 to 60. The Flute (Fl.) part has a dynamic marking of 'V'. The Violin (Vln.) part has a dynamic marking of 'ppp' and features a melodic line with slurs. The Guitars (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) continue with their triplet accompaniment. The Flute part has a rest in measure 54.

61 V NV

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 61 to 67. The Flute (Fl.) part has dynamic markings of 'V' and 'NV'. The Violin (Vln.) part has a dynamic marking of 'pp'. The Guitars (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) continue with their triplet accompaniment. The Flute part has a rest in measure 61.

68

Fl. *V* *NV*

Vln.

Gtr. 1 *ppp* *pp*

Gtr. 2

Detailed description: This system covers measures 68 to 74. The Flute part (Fl.) starts with a dynamic marking of *V* and later changes to *NV*. The Violin part (Vln.) features a *ppp* dynamic in measure 69 and a *pp* dynamic in measure 74. The Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) include several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and various rhythmic patterns.

75

Fl. *V* *NV* *NV*

Vln. *ppp* *pp*

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Detailed description: This system covers measures 75 to 81. The Flute part (Fl.) has dynamic markings *V*, *NV*, and *NV*. The Violin part (Vln.) has *ppp* in measure 76 and *pp* in measure 80. The Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) continue with triplet markings and other musical notation.

82

Fl. *NV* *ppp*

Vln. *pp* *mp* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Gtr. 1 *mp*

Gtr. 2 *mp*

89 *sim.* *ppp*

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Gtr. 1 *ppp*

Gtr. 2 *ppp*

*sul tasto sempre senza vibr.*

*sim.*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 82-89. The Flute part (Fl.) has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 82, marked *NV* and *ppp*. The Violin (Vln.) part starts with a *pp* dynamic and moves to *mp* and then *ppp*. The Viola (Vc.) part is marked *ppp*. Both Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) feature triplets and are marked *mp*. The second system continues from measure 89. The Flute part is marked *sim.* and *ppp*. The Violin part is marked *ppp*. The Viola part is marked *ppp*. Both Guitar parts are marked *ppp*. The instruction *sul tasto sempre senza vibr.* is placed between the Violin and Viola staves.

96

Fl. NV *pp* sempre senza vibr. sim.

Ob. *p*

Vln. poco a poco sul pont. *ppp*

Vc. poco a poco sul pont. *ppp*

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

103

Fl. NV *ppp* NV *mp* sim.

Vln. sul pont. sempre senza vibr. *p*

Vc. sul pont.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2



109

Fl. *p* *sempre senza vibr.*

Ob. *p*

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Gtr. 1 *p*

Gtr. 2 *p*

116

Ob.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 109 to 116. It features five systems of staves. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The second system includes Guitar 1 (Gtr. 1) and Guitar 2 (Gtr. 2). The third system includes Oboe (Ob.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The fourth system includes Guitar 1 (Gtr. 1) and Guitar 2 (Gtr. 2). Measure 109 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Flute part begins with a triplet of eighth notes. The Oboe part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The Violin and Viola parts have a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The Guitar parts feature triplets and sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 116 begins with a new system, where the Oboe part has a dynamic marking of *p* and the Violin and Viola parts have a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

123

Ob.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*cresc. poco*

*cresc.*

*cresc. poco*

*cresc.*

*detaché*

V

130

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*mp sempre*

*mp sempre*

V

137

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Violin and Viola parts: The Violin part (Vln.) features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *p* (piano) and *V* (vibrato) above the staff. The Viola part (Vc.) provides a harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes and slurs, also marked with *p*. The Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) are mostly silent, with occasional notes in measure 144.

145

Fl.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Flute part (Fl.): The Flute part (Fl.) is silent until measure 151, where it enters with a triplet of notes marked *pp* (pianissimo) and *NV* (no vibrato). It concludes with a triplet of notes in measure 152.

Violin and Viola parts: The Violin part (Vln.) features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *pp* and *dim. poco* (diminuendo poco). The Viola part (Vc.) provides a harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes and slurs, also marked with *pp* and *dim. poco*. The Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) are mostly silent, with occasional notes in measure 152.

153

Fl.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

160

Fl.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

167

Fl.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*ppp*

*p*

*ppp*

*p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 153 through 170. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Guitar 1 (Gtr. 1), Guitar 2 (Gtr. 2), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.).  
- Measures 153-159: Flute has a melodic line with triplets and accents. Guitars 1 and 2 provide accompaniment with triplets and chords.  
- Measures 160-166: Flute continues with a melodic line, marked with 'V' (Vibrato). Guitars 1 and 2 continue with accompaniment, including triplets and chords.  
- Measures 167-170: Flute has a melodic line marked with 'NV' (No Vibrato). Violin and Viola enter in measure 167 with a *ppp* (pianissimo) chord. Guitars 1 and 2 continue with accompaniment, including triplets and a sextuplet in measure 170.  
- Dynamics: *ppp* is used for the Vln. and Vc. entry in measure 167. *p* (piano) is used for the Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2 accompaniment in measure 170.

174 NV  
Fl. *pp*

174 sim.  
Vln. *pp* cresc. poco  
Vc. *cresc. poco a poco*

174  
Gtr. 1 *mp* *cresc. poco*  
Gtr. 2 *mp* *cresc. poco*

180  
Fl. *pp*  
Ob. *mf* *mf* sempre  
Vln. *mf*  
Vc. *mf*

180  
Gtr. 1 *mf*  
Gtr. 2 *mf*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 174 to 180. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and two Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2).  
- **Measures 174-180:**  
 - **Flute:** Starts with a melodic line in measure 174, marked *pp*.  
 - **Oboe:** Enters in measure 174 with a melodic line, marked *pp*.  
 - **Violin:** Plays a sustained melodic line, marked *pp* with a *cresc. poco* instruction.  
 - **Viola:** Plays a sustained melodic line, marked *cresc. poco a poco*.  
 - **Guitar 1:** Features a complex melodic line with triplets and octaves, marked *mp* and *cresc. poco*.  
 - **Guitar 2:** Features a complex melodic line with triplets and octaves, marked *mp* and *cresc. poco*.  
- **Measures 180-185:**  
 - **Flute:** Continues with a melodic line, marked *pp*.  
 - **Oboe:** Continues with a melodic line, marked *mf* and *mf* sempre.  
 - **Violin:** Continues with a sustained melodic line, marked *mf*.  
 - **Viola:** Continues with a sustained melodic line, marked *mf*.  
 - **Guitar 1:** Continues with a melodic line, marked *mf*.  
 - **Guitar 2:** Continues with a melodic line, marked *mf*.

186 *sim.*

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

192

Fl.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*mf*

*mf*

*V*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 186 to 191. The Flute part (Fl.) starts at measure 186 with a melodic line marked 'sim.' (sustained). The Oboe part (Ob.) has a more rhythmic accompaniment. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts play sustained chords. The Guitar parts (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2) feature complex rhythmic patterns with triplets. The second system covers measures 192 to 197. The Flute part continues its melodic line. The Violin and Viola parts have a more active accompaniment. The Guitar parts continue with their rhythmic patterns. Dynamics include 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and articulation 'V' (accents) are present.

199 Vln. Vc.

199 Gtr. 1 Gtr. 2

205 Vln. Vc.

205 Gtr. 1 Gtr. 2

211 Vln. Vc.

211 Gtr. 1 Gtr. 2

217

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*p* dim. poco

*p* dim. poco

dim. poco

dim. poco

223

Fl.

Vln.

Vc.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

V

NV

*pp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*pp*

*pp*



230 V V V

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

237 V

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*ppp*

244

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

*pp*

251

Fl.

Vln.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

NV

*pp*

*ppp*

*pp*

*pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 244 to 257. It features four staves: Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vln.), Guitar 1 (Gtr. 1), and Guitar 2 (Gtr. 2).  
Measures 244-250: The Flute part has a long, sustained note with a breath mark. The Violin part plays a series of notes with a *pp* dynamic. The Guitars play a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and slurs. Measure 250 contains a sharp sign (#) above the staff.  
Measures 251-257: The Flute part has a rest followed by a melodic line starting at measure 251, marked with *pp* and *ppp*. The Violin part continues with a melodic line. The Guitars play a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and slurs. Measure 251 contains a sharp sign (#) above the staff. Measure 256 contains a natural sign (NV) above the staff. Measure 257 contains a sharp sign (#) above the staff. Dynamics *pp* and *ppp* are used throughout this section.

258

Fl.

258

Vln.

*p* *dim. poco* *ppp* *poco cantando*

Vc.

*pp*

258

Gtr. 1

*p* *pp* *pp*

Gtr. 2

*p* *pp* *pp*

265

Vln.

Vc.

*sim.*

265

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

273

Vc.

273

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 258 through 273. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Guitar 1 (Gtr. 1), and Guitar 2 (Gtr. 2). The Flute part begins at measure 258 with a melodic line. The Violin and Viola parts play sustained notes with dynamic markings of *p*, *dim. poco*, *ppp*, and *poco cantando*. The Viola part has a *pp* marking at the end. The two Guitar parts feature intricate patterns with triplets and dynamic markings of *p* and *pp*. The Violin part resumes at measure 265 with a melodic line, and the Viola part has a *sim.* marking. The Guitars continue their patterns from measure 265. The Viola part resumes at measure 273 with a melodic line, and the Guitars continue their patterns from measure 273.

281

Fl. *pp* NV *ppp*

Ob.

Vc.

Gtr. 1 *pp*

Gtr. 2 *pp*

290

Fl.

Ob.

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Gtr. 1 *pp*

Gtr. 2 *pp*