

Soif

for solo violin

Alex Stephenson

2019

Score

2019.10.20

First performance: Miranda Cuckson, Conrad Prebys Experimental Theater, UC San Diego, La Jolla, California, 16 May 2019

Duration: approximately 10 minutes, 30 seconds

To contact the composer: alex@alexstephenson.com

Performance Notes

General

∅	Niente
s.p.	Sul ponticello
m.s.p.	Molto sul ponticello

Accidentals

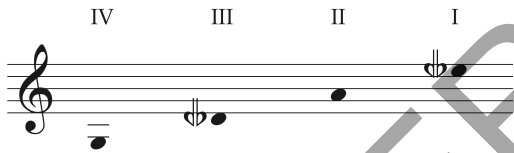
Accidentals remain in effect through the end of the measure. The following quarter-tone accidentals are used throughout:

♭ ^{3/4}	3/4 tone flat
♭ ^{1/4}	1/4 tone flat
♯ ^{1/4}	1/4 tone sharp
♯ ^{3/4}	3/4 tone sharp

An upward arrow (↑) applied to an accidental indicates that it should be sharpened by approximately 1/8 tone.

Scordatura

The instrument should be tuned as follows:

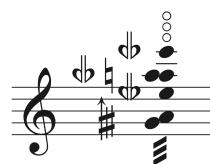


Tremolos

Four unusual tremolos, which were devised in collaboration with Miranda Cuckson, appear in this work. Each tremolo results in a highly irregular articulation of six pitches. When one of the tremolos is used, the score simply gives the six pitches as a sort of shorthand notation. Below, the tremolos are explained in detail.

Left Hand

The left hand performs rapid alternations between an open string/stopped note and a natural harmonic on three strings simultaneously.



indicates the following simultaneous actions on I, II, and III:

sounding pitches

fingered pitches

sul I

sul II

sul III

Musical notation showing simultaneous actions on strings I, II, and III. It consists of two staves: 'sounding pitches' and 'fingered pitches'. The 'sounding pitches' staff shows three notes (I, II, III) with natural harmonics indicated by small circles above them. The 'fingered pitches' staff shows three notes (I, II, III) with fingerings indicated by small diamonds below them. The actions are labeled 'sul I', 'sul II', and 'sul III'.

indicates the following simultaneous actions on II, III, and IV:

sounding pitches

fingered pitches

sul II

sul III

sul IV

Musical notation showing simultaneous actions on strings II, III, and IV. It consists of two staves: 'sounding pitches' and 'fingered pitches'. The 'sounding pitches' staff shows three notes (II, III, IV) with natural harmonics indicated by small circles above them. The 'fingered pitches' staff shows three notes (II, III, IV) with fingerings indicated by small diamonds below them. The actions are labeled 'sul II', 'sul III', and 'sul IV'.

indicates the following simultaneous actions on II, III, and IV:

sounding pitches

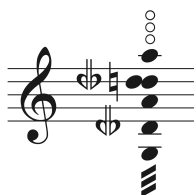
fingered pitches

sul II

sul III

sul IV

Musical notation showing simultaneous actions on strings II, III, and IV. It consists of two staves: 'sounding pitches' and 'fingered pitches'. The 'sounding pitches' staff shows three notes (II, III, IV) with natural harmonics indicated by small circles above them. The 'fingered pitches' staff shows three notes (II, III, IV) with fingerings indicated by small diamonds below them. The actions are labeled 'sul II', 'sul III', and 'sul IV'.



indicates the following simultaneous actions on II, III, and IV:

	1	2	3
sounding pitches			
fingered pitches			

Right Hand

The bow performs a series double-stop slurs occurring at short, irregular intervals, selecting *ad libitum* pairs of strings among the three strings that are involved in the tremolo. A characteristic example of bow rhythm is given below; tremolos always appear at the tempo shown. Aim for an ecstatic, wild, kaleidoscopic sound!

strings
(I, II, III
or II, III, IV)

$\text{♩} = 96$

etc.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Soif

Alex Stephenson (2019)

Solo Violin
(scordatura:
see preface)

$\text{♩} = 96$

see preface

fff estatico!

sounding pitches

fingered pitches

II senza vib.
III

molto vib. (ord.) → s.p. senza vib. ord.

fff rigido, deciso **ff** **ffp** **f** **p** **ff**

III (LH pizz. + arco sul II)
II +

molto vib. (ord.) → s.p. senza vib. ord. (arm. 3) (non arm.)

fff **f** **p** **f** **p** **ff** **ffp** **f** **p**

molto vib. (ord.) → s.p. senza vib. ord.

fff **f** **p** **ff** **ffp** **f** **p**

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

13 vib. ad lib.

senza vib.

fff sub. più espr., suspended **f** **p** **fff** sub. rigido

Copyright © 2019 Alex Stephenson Music (ASCAP)

2
16

f *p* *f* *p*

18
18 vib. ad lib.

p *f* *p*

più espr.

20
20 senza vib. molto vib. (ord.) → s.p. senza vib. (ord.) → s.p. senza vib. (ord.)

ffp rigido *f* *p* *ff* *ffp* *f* *p*

22
22

f *p* *f* *p*

24
24

ffp *f* *p*

26 *molto vib.* *senza vib.*
(ord.) → s.p. → ord.

ffp *f* *p* *f* *p*

28 *p* *pp*

31 *fff* come sopra

32 (senza vib.) *ffp* *f* *p* *ffp*

34 *f* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

$\frac{1}{2}$ col legno tratto (ord.) → s.p. → ord.

$\text{♩} = 60 \text{ sub.}$

36 non col legno vib. ad lib. sempre (until m. 87)

più espr. *f* *p* *f* *p*

4
39

39

$\emptyset$ f p $\emptyset$ p

42

42

f p f p f p $\emptyset$ $\emptyset$

45

45

f p $\emptyset$ $\emptyset$ f p f p $\emptyset$

Tempo più flessibile

48

48

$\emptyset$ p f p $\emptyset$ $\emptyset$ p

51

51

f p f p $\emptyset$

poco a poco accel. -----

53

53

$\emptyset$ p f p f p 3

56

56 (III) II III II I II II I II I II II III II III

f *p* *f* *p*

59

59 I II III II I III II II III II

f *p*

strings ad lib. (only sounding pitches are shown)

61

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

63

f *p* *f* *p* *fp*

poco a poco accel.

65

(ord.) → s.p. → ord. (ord.) → s.p. → ord. → s.p. → ord.

fp *f* *p* *fp* *fp* *fp*

68

ff appass. *ffp* *ff*

70

pp tenero *mf* *p* *pp*

73

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

94

94

(ord.) → m.s.p. → ord.

sf *sf* *fff* *ff*

96

96

fff *ff*

7/16 7/16

98

98

sf

7/16 3/8 5/4

101

101

sf *sf* *sf*

3/8 3/8 3/8

103

103

(ord.) → m.s.p. → ord.

dim. poco a poco

106

106

(dim...)

3/8 5/4 7/16

8
109

strings ad lib. (only sounding pitches are shown)

(dim...) (ord.) → s.p. → ord. *pp* scherzando
dim. molto

ff sub. *ffpp* *ff* sub.

ffpp *ff* sub.

ffpp *ff* sub.

ffpp *ffpp*
II, arm. 3
I, arm. 3

ff sub. *ffpp*

ff *mf*

ff *ffpp* (*pp*)
(LH pizz. sul II)

ff sub. *sff* *ffpp*
II III

129 (II) (III) *ff sub.* *sff* *ffpp* *ff sub.* *sff*

132 (ord.) → m.s.p. → ord. *ffpp* *ffp* *ff* *p*

135 (ord.) → m.s.p. → ord. *ff sub.* *sff* *ffp* *ff* *p*

138 *ff* *p* *ff sub.* *sff* *ffp*

141 *ff* *p* *ff sub.* *sff* *sff*

144 *ffp cresc. poco a poco*

146 (E) *fff* *ffp* *fff* *fff sempre, estatico!* vib., molto d'arco! (F²)

149 3 5 *poss.!*

10 ♩=96 sub.

152

fff

156

sounding pitches

156

fingered pitches

ff sempre molto feroce sin' al fine

fff *ff* *fff* *f* *fff*

III senza vib.
II

molto vib.

senza vib.
II III

(norm.) → scratch → norm.
(ord.) → s.p. → ord.

158 (see preface)

fff

161

161

ff *fff* *ff* *fff* *f* *fff* *ff* *fff*

molto vib.

senza vib.
II III II III

molto vib.
(ord.) → s.p. → ord.

senza vib.
ord.

II III

164

164

ff *fff* *ff* *fff* *f* *fff*

III (LH pizz. + arco sul IV)

(norm.) → scratch → norm.
(ord.) → s.p. → ord.

166

5

166

IV III IV III III molto vib. senza vib.
5 (ord.) → s.p. → ord.

ff *fff* *f* *fff*

168

168

III IV molto vib. senza vib.
(ord.) → s.p. → ord.

ff *fff* *f* *fff*

170

5 5

170

III IV III IV III IV III III (norm.) → scratch → norm.
5 IV (ord.) → s.p. → ord.

ff *fff* *f* *fff* *ff* *fff*

172

172

III IV molto vib. senza vib.
(ord.) → s.p. → ord.

ff *fff* *f* *fff* *ff* *fff* *f* *fff*

174

5

174

IV III IV III III (norm.) → scratch → norm.
5 IV (ord.) → s.p. → ord.

ff *fff* *f* *fff*

12 176

(norm.) → scratch → norm. molto vib. (ord.) → s.p. → ord. (ord.) → s.p.

fff sempre, con la massima intensità!

poss.!

fff

179

(norm.) → scratch → norm. molto vib. (ord.) → s.p. → ord. (ord.) → s.p.

poss.!

fff

182

fff

184

(norm.) → scratch → norm. (ord.) → s.p. → ord. (norm.) → scratch → norm. (ord.) → s.p. → ord.

poss.!

fff

poss.!

187

fff poss.!

fff

gliss. arm. sul IV
(rhythms approximate; high partials understood to be increasingly unstable and indistinct)

190

fff poss.!

fff *p dim. poco a poco*

192

(dim...)

pppp

February 21, 2019
La Jolla, California