

Closer Still

for solo Cello

Marko Marinic

2025

Perusal Score

The opening section features rhythms and gestures without specified notes. Here, players should use a muted, scratchy tone in a manner that is fluid and comfortable.

Rhythm is always relative; this score has been written with the assumption that the player will push and pull the tempo with expressive rubato. With regard to phrasing, grace notes with a slash should occur just before the beat, and grace notes without a slash should occur on the beat and immediately proceed to the regular-sized notehead.

"Swoop" symbols are micro-glissando within the semitone above the original pitch. The pitch shifting should occur toward the end of the given duration.

Parenthesized noteheads should not to be played. They are given as a reference aid for left-hand chord shapes when it would make sense the hold down the notes before they are actually played.

Slurred left-hand pizzicato, such as in section B, should always be treated as "hammer-ons and pull-offs," borrowing terms from guitar technique. Subsequent pizzicato notes under a slur should never be re-articulated with the right hand.

Program Notes

In the summer of 2024, my wife and I had the pleasure of travelling to Scandinavia for our belated honeymoon. We camped in a fjord, hiked to the North Sea, and visited a ton of museums. At the National Museum in Oslo I was particularly entranced by the gestures of Kandinsky, and became lost in the texture and density of Rothko.

When Yiyang Xue asked me to write a piece for solo cello, and I learned that she had also been in Europe over the summer, I knew I wanted to write a piece about our parallel experiences. Closer Still is a reflection on the beauty of brushstrokes, geometry, crashing waves and looming mountains.

Closer Still

Marko Marinic

Erratic, overwhelmed ♩ = 60

Violoncello

scratch ad lib.

f

Sul A pizz. Sul D sim.

arco 8^{va}

p

accelerando.....

ff *f* *p sub.*

..... ♩ = 60 ... as though drawn by some magnetism

s.p. ord. → s.p. → ord. → sul tasto

f *fpp* *mf* *f* *mp*

A Reaching, yearning. Rubato ad lib.

pp *pp* *mf*

p *mf* *f*

p

Musical score for "Closer Still" (Bass line). The score consists of several staves with various musical notations, including dynamics, articulations, and tempo changes.

Staff 1: Bass line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics: *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte).

Staff 2: Bass line with triplets and slurs. Dynamics: *p sub.* (piano subito) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Staff 3: Bass line with a tempo change from *rit.* (ritardando) to *a tempo*. Dynamics: *p sub.*, *f*, and *mf*. Includes the instruction "Sul D".

Staff 4: Bass line with a barre and triplets. Dynamics: *ff* (fortissimo) and *pizz.* (pizzicato).

Section B: Boisterous, blossoming
 This section includes the instruction "hammer-ons/pull-offs" and "pizzicato until C". The music features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs.

Staff 5: Continuation of the Boisterous, blossoming section with triplets and slurs.

Staff 6: Continuation of the Boisterous, blossoming section with triplets and slurs.

Section C: Marked with a box containing the letter "C". The music transitions to an *arco* (arco) section. Dynamics: *p sub.*, *ff*, and *mf*.

rit.....a tempo

p

pp *< mf* *f* *pizz.* *pizz.* *m.s.p.* *pp* *3* *> n*

D *pizz.* *arco (ord)*

mf *n* *< p* *3* *< mf* *p* *3* *f* *p sub.*

pizz. *arco*

f *n* *mf*

3 *3* *fp* *mf*

> n *p* *3* *mf* *pp* *5*

rit.....a tempo

mf *f* *pizz.* *p*

E Becoming lethargic, viscous

arco

p *mf* *f* *p*

pizz. arco

p *n*

F a little faster, more insistent ♩ = c. 68–70

mf *f* *mp* *f*

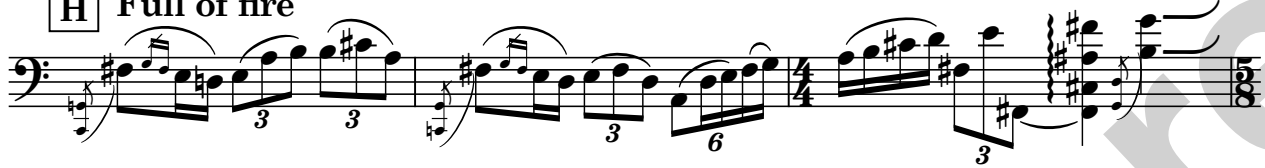
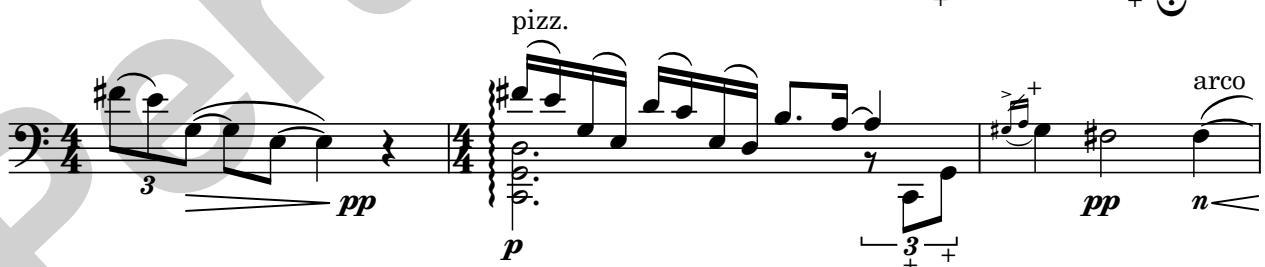
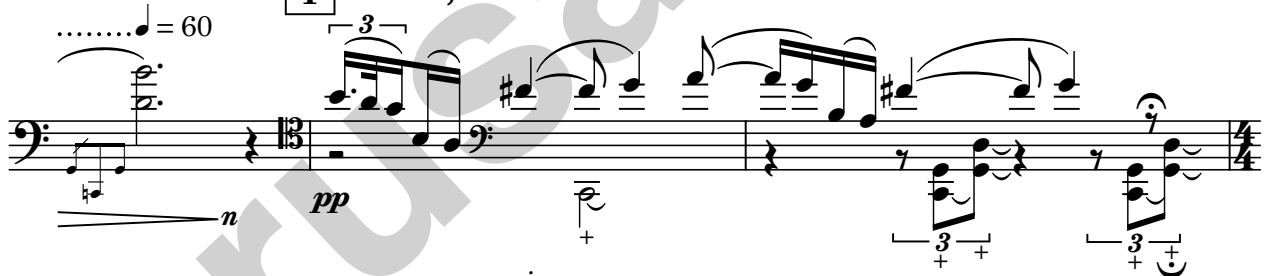
f *p* *mf* *f*

molto rit

G Expanding/contracting like a rubber band

hold down left hand through bar

gliss.

**H** Full of fire*molto rit***I** Sweet, soft*rit al fine*