

DANIEL FOX

The François Vase

for string quartet

(2013)

Act I. The Birth of the Minotaur

Act II. The Labyrinth Dance

Act III. The Slaying of the Minotaur

Act IV. The Breakup Scene

Act V. Vase Shattering

Duration: 22 minutes.

The François Vase is a work for video projection and string quartet by visual artist Gabriela Vainsencher and composer Daniel Fox. It premiered at The Rotunda in Philadelphia on 30 October 2013, performed by the Momena Quartet. This work was supported by a Presser Award from The Presser Foundation.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Accidentals hold for the instrument indicated and the measure and register in which they appear.

Acts I and II:

Measures 37-43 were constructed by fragmenting the following fugal exposition in which the cellist *would* introduce the subject were its opening measures not trimmed off:

The musical score is for measures 37-43, marked with a tempo of ♩=72. It is written for four string instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The score shows a fragmented fugal exposition. Violin I has rests in measures 37-39, then enters in measure 40 with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. Violin II enters in measure 37 with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. Viola enters in measure 37 with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. Violoncello enters in measure 37 with a half note B-flat, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). There are also accents and slurs. The score ends with a double bar line in measure 43.

In mm. 37-39 the violins have material that is extraneous to the exposition but by m. 40 their material is also a collection of scattered shards of the exposition. The passage in mm. 37-43 should be played with the goal of making intelligible the structure of the fugal exposition. Approaching this goal will enable the melodic lines of the unfragmented exposition to cohere and move through space, passing from player to player.

Act III:

The cross-hatched note heads are to be played as follows: The left hand muffles all strings so that bowing produces a pitch-less hissing with erratic sounding of harmonics. The accents are produced by over-pressure that results in an, at first, mild but then steadily intensifying scratch tone. The bowing is normal for the violins but the viola and cello bow by holding the bow perpendicular to the strings but sliding it parallel to the strings.

Act V:

The quartet should reposition itself so that the violinists are close together in the middle of the stage and so that the violist and cellist are about 20 feet apart, at the sides of the stage. This arrangement will enhance the effect of the violist and cellist calling to each other and reinforce the process of fragmentation. In mm. 24-7 the espressivo line should pass seamlessly between the instruments as if played by a single instrument.

Acts I and II: The Birth of the Minotaur and The Labyrinth Dance

1

Daniel Fox

Slow and tense ♩=72

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

p *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *lightly*

8

with more intensity

with more intensity

poco poco

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

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

p *f* *p*

15

poco

f *p* *p*

23

pp p pp p

31

mp > p mp > p mp > p mp > p p f > p

37

p f p p f p mf > p

44

pp pp pp mf mf f > mf

evenly

with expression returning **B**

3

52

mp *p* senza vib.

60

66

III IV etc...

mf *tr* *mf* *mf* *mf*

72

C

p *mp* *p* *p* *p* *p*

D

⁴ 79 poco accel.

♩=80

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in three systems. The first system consists of two measures in 3/4 time, featuring a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The second system consists of two measures in 3/4 time, continuing the melody and bass line. The third system consists of two measures in 3/4 time, concluding the piece. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (mp, mf, p, pp). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

84

poco rit. - - - - - ,

92 a tempo ♩=80

E

92 a tempo 7-80

The musical score is for a piece in 7/8 time, marked 'a tempo' with a tempo range of 7-80. It features four staves: two treble clefs (top and second) and two bass clefs (third and fourth). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *pp* (pianissimo). There are also crescendo and decrescendo hairpins. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and various articulations like slurs and accents.

100

F

100

p *cresc.* *mf* *mf*

p *mf* *p cresc. poco a poco*

p *mf* *p cresc. poco a poco*

p *mf* *p cresc. poco a poco*

accel.

a tempo

127

mf sf pp ppp mp p mp ppp mp ppp mf mp > ppp

132

H

f mf gliss. pp gliss. pp gliss. pp gliss. pp gliss. pp f ppp mp mf pp

137

mp gliss. gliss. ppp senza vib. mp gliss. ppp senza vib. mp gliss. ppp senza vib. mp gliss. ppp

Act III. The Slaying of the Minotaur

Rustling, then growing to a fierce intensity* ♩=104 **poco accel.**

Violin I *pp* etc...

Violin II *pp* etc...

Viola *pp* sideways bowing etc...

Violoncello *pp* etc...

cresc.

7

11 ♩=120

mf al talone

mf al talone

mf al talone

mf al talone

mf

*Performance Note: The cross-hatched note heads are to be played as follows: The left hand muffles all strings so that bowing produces a pitch-less hissing with erratic sounding of harmonics. The accents are produced by over-pressure that results in an at first mild but then steadily intensifying scratch tone. The bowing is normal for the violins but the viola and cello bow by holding the bow perpendicular to the strings but sliding it parallel to the strings.

Fierce

♩.=96

15 *mf* sul *tasto* sul *pont.*

f sul *tasto* sul *pont.*

sul *pont.* mild over pressure
III II etc...

mf sul *pont.* mild over pressure
III II etc...

mf

19 sul *tasto* molto sul *pont.* ord.

sul *tasto* sul *pont.* ord.

ord.

f ord.

mf *f* *mf*

ord.

f *p* *f*

ord.

f

24 *f* *p* arco *tr* molto vib. *gliss.*

f *p* arco *tr* *f* *mf*

f *p* arco *tr* *f* *mf*

f *p* arco *tr* *f* *mf*

48

mp

gliss.

f

ff

mp

gliss.

mp

Driving ♩=96
arco ord.

B

52

f

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

p

ord.

p

mf

mf

58

mf

III

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

molto vib.

molto vib.

arco ord.

mf

arco ord.

mf

p staccato, meccanico

63

vib. ord.

gliss.

vib. ord.

gliss.

p *staccato, meccanico*

ff

f

pizz.

68

First system of the musical score for 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. The score is written for four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Cello/Double Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 3/4. The first staff (Violin I) features a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*, and an *arco* marking. The second staff (Violin II) has a sustained note with a *mf* dynamic and an *arco* marking. The third staff (Cello/Double Bass) plays a rhythmic accompaniment with a *f* dynamic. The fourth staff (Piano) provides harmonic support with a *f* dynamic. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

73

p

f

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

p

f

f

arco

mf

78

arco *p* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *tr*

82 (tr)

pizz. *p* *f* *arco* *f* *arco* *f* *arco* *f*

87 sul tasto

sul tasto *ord.* *dirty* *ord.* *tr* *tr* *tr* *ord.* *ff* *pizz.* *pizz.* *pizz.*

Driving

[illegible]

[illegible]

118

solo

p

p

mf

mf

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

163 (tr) arco *f* *pp*

(tr) pizz. *f* arco *tr* *tr* *tr* *pp*

(tr) pizz. *f* arco *tr* *tr* *tr* *pp*

(tr) pizz. *f* arco *tr* *tr* *tr* *pp*

169 *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

175 arco *b* molto vib. *f* *espress. mf* *f* *mf* *f*

cold f *espress. mf* *f* *mf* *f*

f cold *espress. mf* *f* *mf* *f*

f cold *espress. mf* *f* *mf* *f*

192

F

206

206

The musical score for measures 206-213 consists of four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass and alto clefs. The first two staves contain melodic lines with various dynamics (ff, pp, mp) and articulation marks. The bottom two staves are mostly empty, indicating sustained or silent parts.

Act IV. The Break Up Scene

19

Andante ♩=100

Musical score for measures 1-7. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third and fourth staves have a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*pp*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*pp*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 8-15. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third and fourth staves have a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 16-21. The score is in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third and fourth staves have a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second staff begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third staff begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth staff begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

22 II

mf *f* *p* III

ord. *f* ord. *f* ord.

31

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

gliss. *gliss.*

38

mf *sub. pp* *pp* *II* *III*

gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.*

47

System 1 (measures 47-54) features a complex melodic line in the upper voice with various ornaments and accidentals. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The system includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *p*. Roman numerals IV and II are present above the staff. The lower staves (piano and bass) are mostly empty, with some rests and a few notes in the piano part.

55

System 2 (measures 55-63) continues the melodic development. It includes dynamic markings *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. The upper voice part shows a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The piano part has some activity in the lower register, including a few chords and single notes.

64

System 3 (measures 64-70) shows a more active piano part. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *f*, and *mp*. The upper voice part continues with melodic lines, while the piano part features more frequent chords and moving lines.

71

System 4 (measures 71-78) concludes the page. It includes dynamic markings *f*, *mp*, and *pp*. The upper voice part has a final melodic phrase. The piano part features a prominent trill in the right hand and a series of sixteenth-note runs in the left hand, marked with a *f* dynamic.

A

78

p

ff *p*

II IV

I

84

gliss. *gliss.*

II I

gliss.

B

90

f *p*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

mf molto espress. *dolce* *p*

gliss.

101

pizz. arco pizz. pizz.

p *mf*

108

arco *p* *f* *ppp*

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

113

p *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf*

p *mf*

118

Measures 118-123. The score features a complex arrangement with multiple staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music includes various dynamics such as *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also slurs and accents throughout the passage.

124

Measures 124-132. The score continues with the same instrumentation. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f* (forte), and *p* (piano). The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are also slurs and accents throughout the passage.

135

Measures 135-143. The score continues with the same instrumentation. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *f* (forte). The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are also slurs and accents throughout the passage. The text *mf espress.* is written below the first staff.

144

Measures 144-148. The score continues with the same instrumentation. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f* (forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are also slurs and accents throughout the passage.

150

f *mp* *f* *pizz.* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
f *mp* *f* *pizz.* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf*
mf *p* *mf* *pizz.* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*
p *mf* *p* *pizz.* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

159

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *arco* *f*
p *mf* *p* *mf* *arco* *f*
p *mf* *arco* *f* *pizz.*
mf *p* *arco* *f* *pizz.* *espress.*

167

f *ff* *f < ff*
f *ff* *f < ff*

174 C

p *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *f*

180

<f *fp* *f* *pp* *pp* *p* *f* *f*

arco *pizz.*

186

p molto espress. *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

I *II* *IV* *pizz.*

193

arco

f

f

mf dolce

mf

200

crisp

crisp

207

D

pizz.

mp molto espress.

pizz.

mp molto espress.

pizz.

mp molto espress.

mp molto espress.

arco

mf

arco

mf

arco

mf

mf

215

Violin I: *p*, *f*, *mf*

Violin II: *mf*

Cello/Double Bass 1: *pizz.*, *arco*

Cello/Double Bass 2: *arco*, *f*, *ff*

222

Violin I: *f*, *ff*

Violin II: *f*, *ff*

Cello/Double Bass 1: *f*, *ff*, *fff*

Cello/Double Bass 2: *f*, *ff*, *fff*

Tempo: *furioso*

E

227

Violin I: *ff*

Violin II: *ff*

Cello/Double Bass 1: *f*

Cello/Double Bass 2: *f*

Tempo: *8va*

Act V. Vase Shattering

Adagio $\text{♩} = 60$

sempre con sord.

senza vib.

pp legato

sempre con sord.
senza vib.

pp legato

sempre con sord.
senza vib.

pp legato

sempre con sord.
senza vib.

pp legato

punt d'arco sul pont.

mp

punt d'arco sul pont.

mp

punt d'arco sul pont.

mp

punt d'arco sul pont.

mp

♩=66

6 ord.
p legato

ord.
p legato

ord.
p legato

vib. ord.
p legato

ord.
p legato

15

ord. senza vib.

mp

ord. senza vib.

mp

vib. ord.

mp

vib. ord.

mp

→ sul pont. → ord.

gliss.

III II

6 6

19

punt d'arco
poco sul pont. *gliss.* *mp* *ord. poco vib.* *ppp*

punt d'arco
poco sul pont. *gliss.* *mp* *ord. poco vib.* *ppp*

punt d'arco
poco sul pont. *gliss.* *mp* *ord. poco vib.* *ppp*

punt d'arco
poco sul pont. *gliss.* *mp* *ord. poco vib.* *ppp*

p

p

p

mf *p* *arco*

24

Allegretto

1

pp as legato as possible

etc...

2

pp as legato as possible

p *espress.*

3

pp as legato as possible

p *espress.*

4

espress.

pp as legato as possible

27

poco rit. **a tempo** **molto rit.** **senza vib.**

6 *6* *gliss.* *ppp*

p espress. *mp*

6 *6* *gliss.* *ppp*

p espress. *mp*

V *etc...* *6* *6* *gliss.* *ppp*

pp *as legato as possible* *p espress.* *mp*

I *gliss.* *ppp*

p espress. *mp*